ROMANCE COMICS

女神と出会う朝に

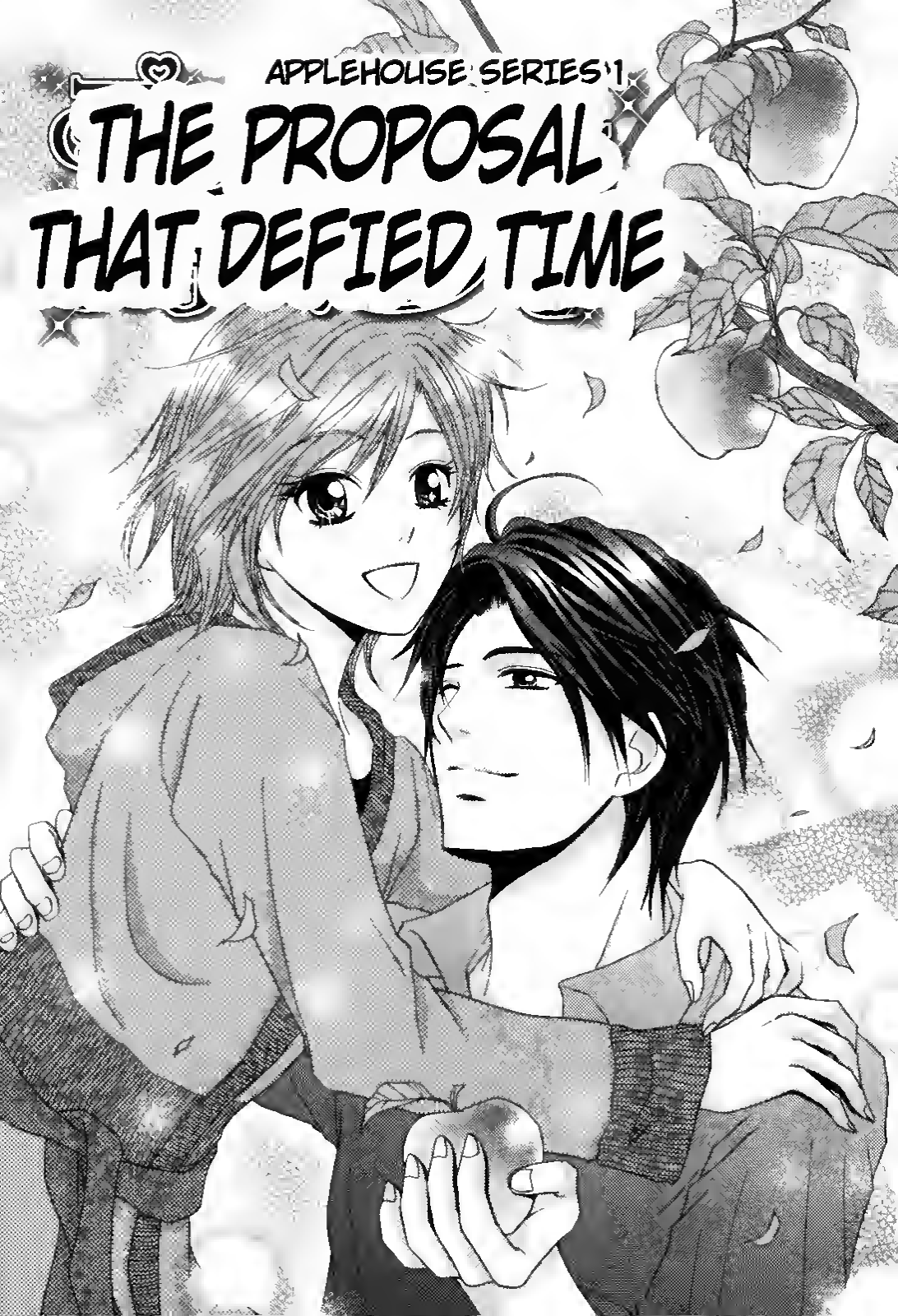
Yohna

曜名

ロマンスコミックス

APPLEHOUSE SERIES 1

THE PROPOSAL THAT DEFIED TIME



NICE AND WARM
YOUR ALARM IS RING-ING!
SHARON?
BEEP BEEP
SHA-RON
BEEP BEEP
ONE BEAUTIFUL SPRING.
HEY WAKE UP!
SHAAR-OON!!
BEEP BEEP
SHARON BOGART.
IT'S BEEN ALMOST 1 YEAR SINCE SHE BECAME A FREE-LANCE WEB DESIGNER.
THE THING SHE LOVES MOST ABOUT BEING ON HER OWN...
IS THAT SHE CAN SLEEP IN AS MUCH AS SHE WANTS EVERY MORNING.
BEEP
IT'S 1:40 PM!
SNUGGLY ...

I DON'T THINK YOU COULD EVEN CALL THIS TIME "MORNING" ANYMORE.
NOT THAT IT MATTERS
...!
JOLT!
THANKS FOR WAKING ME UP, CLARICE!
I'M SUPPOSED TO MEET LETTY AT 2.
PATTER
PATTER
HAVE YOU STAYED UP WORKING LATE AGAIN?
YOU SHOULD TAKE IT EASY. IT'D DO GOOD FOR YOUR SKIN.
YOU'RE NOT YOUNG ANYMORE
KNOW...

YOU'RE NOT WORKING TODAY, CLARICE?
YUP.
I'M GOING OUT LATER BUT I WON'T STAY OUT ALL NIGHT.
ALSO, JUDITH SHOULD BE BACK FROM HER BUSINESS TRIP TONIGHT.
AND MERIEL?
SAME AS ALWAYS.
GOT IT!
I'M OFF THEN!
STEP
HERE, TAKE THIS! SHARON.

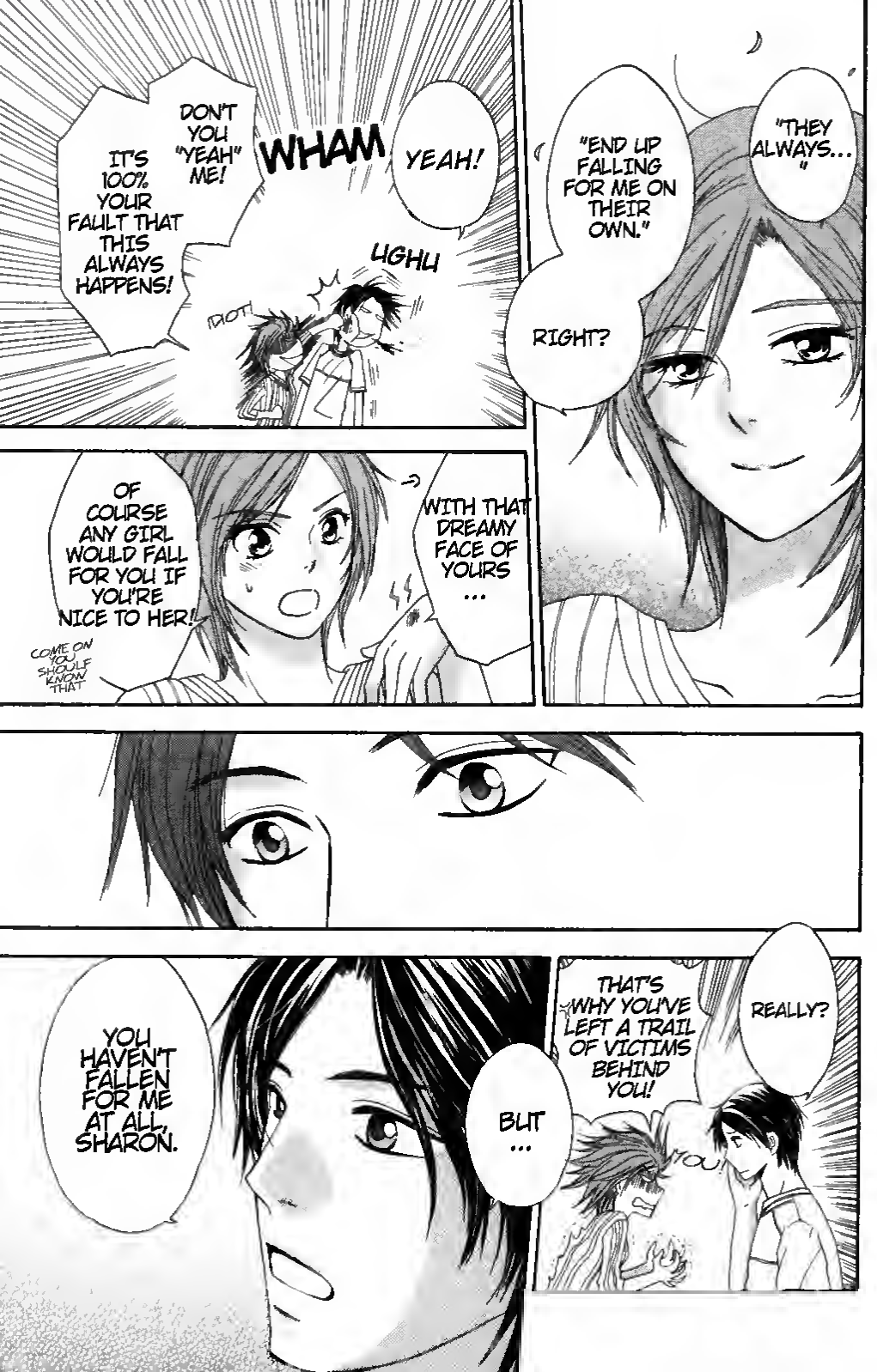
TOSS
GRAB
THANKS!
BEAUTY STARTS WITH HEALTH, OK?
"MS. LANDLADY."
ONE YEAR AGO ...
JUST AS I STARTED LIVING ON MY OWN, I INHERITED THIS HOUSE FROM MY GRANDMOTHER.
I THEN TURNED IT INTO A BOARDING HOUSE FOR WOMEN, JUST LIKE I ALWAYS WANTED.
MY GRANDMA, WHO ALSO USED TO RENT OUT THE ROOMS THERE, WOULD ALWAYS TELL ME STORIES ...
ABOUT THE HOUSE DURING THE "GOOD OLD DAYS."
BEFORE I KNEW IT ...

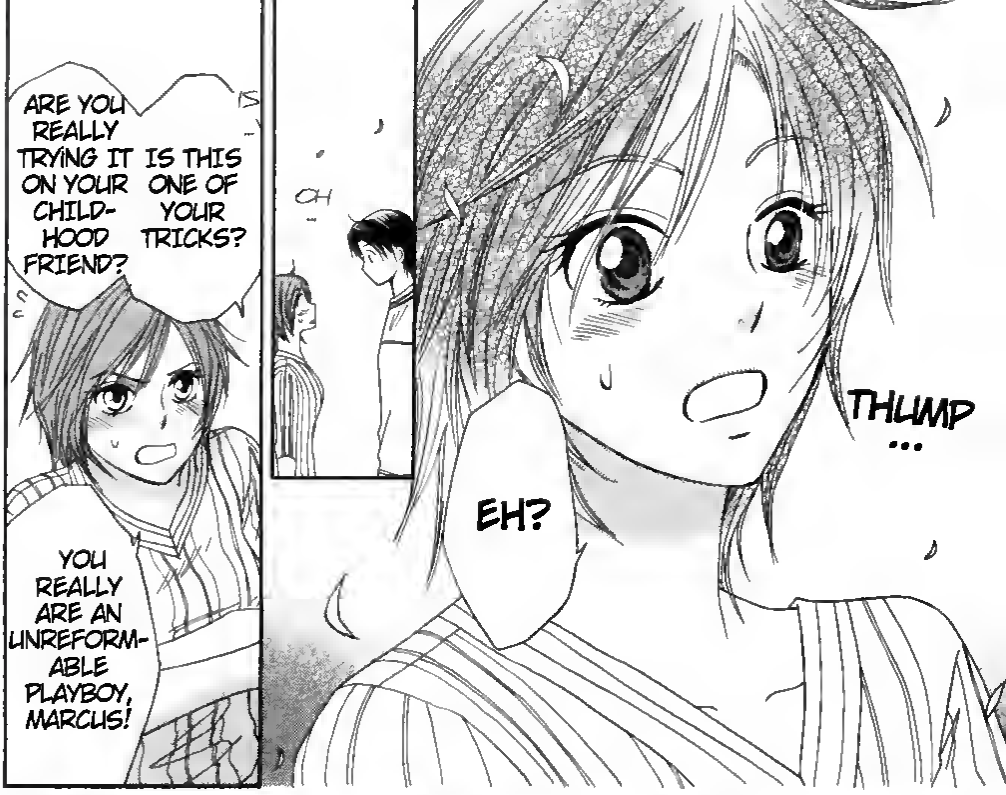
I'VE BECOME SO ENCHANTED WITH THAT HOUSE ... THAT IT BECAME A PART OF MY DREAMS AS WELL.
NOW ...
I'VE FORTU-NATELY MANAGED TO RENT OUT ALL 3 ROOMS ...
TO SOME INTEREST-ING TENANTS WHOM I ACTUALLY LIKE.
AND SO THINGS HAVE BEEN GOING WELL FOR ME, BOTH AS A DESIGNER AND AS A LANDLADY.
CRUNCH
THUMP THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
FWOOM
IF YOU DON'T COUNT "HIM" ...
YEAH, WELL, MAYBE ...
"GOING WELL" ...
BAM!
?!
?!
YAA!

SORRY!
ARE YOU OK?!
SHARON!
OWIE...
COME ON!
WHO...
WAH!
MARCUS!
YOU!
I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU OVER AND OVER THAT IT'S DANGEROUS TO JUST COME OUT RUNNING LIKE THAT!
IT'S ALWAYS "NEXT TIME" WITH YOU!
GOT IT!
I'LL BE MORE CAREFUL NEXT TIME.
YES, YES.
: ARE YOU HURT?
SORRY, SORRY.
GRUMBLE GRUMBLE GRUMBLE
NO, BUT I'VE DROPPED MY APPLE BECAUSE OF YOU.
SIGH
GEEZ...
TO THINK YOU WERE SO CUTE AND WELL-BEHAVED AS A CHILD...

WHEN DID YOU ...
BECOME THIS COOL, YOU MEAN?
SHHWW
WHACK
THWAP
UMFH
"WHEN DID YOU BECOME THIS INCONSIDERATE?"
HMPH!
YEAH.
MEANE
MARCUS CROSS. MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND.
THE SOLE SOURCE OF DISTRESS IN MY LIFE.
THE REASON FOR THAT IS ...
HM?
GLAD I CAUGHT YOU, MARCUS.
TAP TAP
HUUH?
: YOU'VE MADE ANOTHER GIRL CRY LAST WEEK.

I REALLY HAV NO IDEA WHAT THIS IS ABOUT.
YOU MAY NOT, BUT SHE DEFINITELY DOES.
I DON'T REMEMBER DOING ANYTHING TO HER.
LETTY ?
STARE
I DIDN ...
LETTY MCLANE.
RING ANY BELLS? YOU KNOW SHE AND I USED TO WORK TOGETHER.
NOW I'M OFF TO HEAR HER COMPLAIN ABOUT YOU.
SHE DID INVITE ME TO DINNER LAST WEEK ...
BUT THAT WAS IT.
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO MAKE HER CRY.
...
WELL, THIS IS YOU SO ...
YOU PROBABLY GOT HER HOPES UP AND THEN LET HER DOWN JUST BEFORE YOU LEFT ...
RIGHT?
I... THAT IS ...
MUTTER MUTTER
SO YOU DO REMEMBER.
DON'T LOOK AWAY.
IT WASN'T MY FAULT.
I TOLD HER FROM THE BEGINNING THAT I WASN'T INTERESTED IN HER THAT WAY.
BUT THEY ALWAYS ...

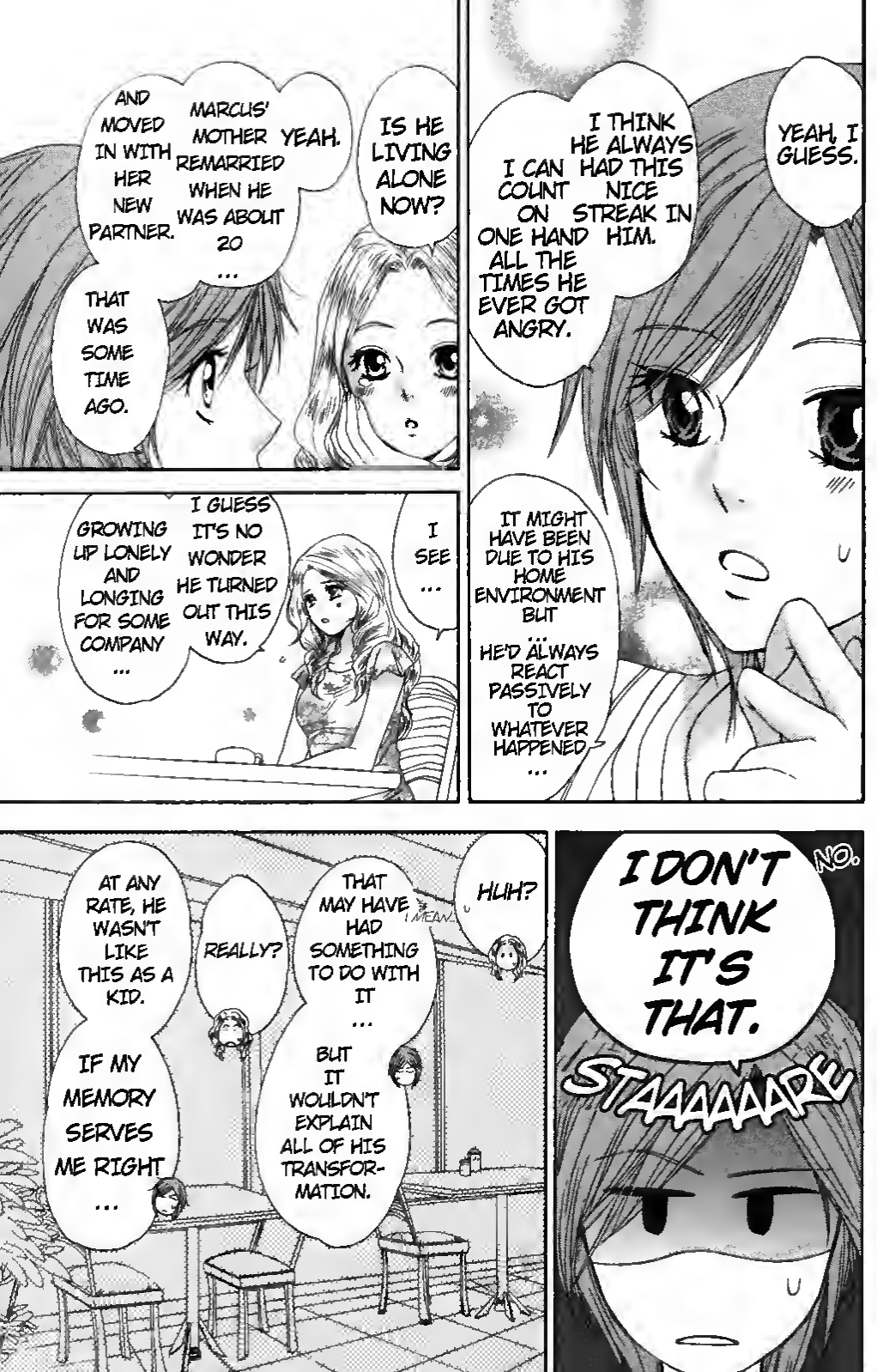

"THEY ALWAYS..."
"END UP FALLING FOR ME ON THEIR OWN."
RIGHT?
DON'T YOU "YEAH" ME!
WHAM
YEAH!
IT'S 100% YOUR FAULT THAT THIS ALWAYS HAPPENS!
UGHH
IDIOT!
WITH THAT DREAMY FACE OF YOURS ...
OF COURSE ANY GIRL WOULD FALL FOR YOU IF YOU'RE NICE TO HER!
COME ON YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT
REALLY?
THAT'S WHY YOU'VE LEFT A TRAIL OF VICTIMS BEHIND YOU!
YOU
BUT ...
YOU HAVEN'T FALLEN FOR ME AT ALL, SHARON.


ARE YOU REALLY TRYING IT ON YOUR CHILD-HOOD FRIEND?
IS THIS ONE OF YOUR TRICKS?
CH-
YOU REALLY ARE AN UNREFORM-ABLE PLAYBOY, MARCUS!
EH?
THUMP...

HUH?
THANKS TO A CERTAIN SOMEONE.
HA HA
I REALLY AM.
SEE YOU LATER, SHARON.
I HAVE TO GET TO WORK.

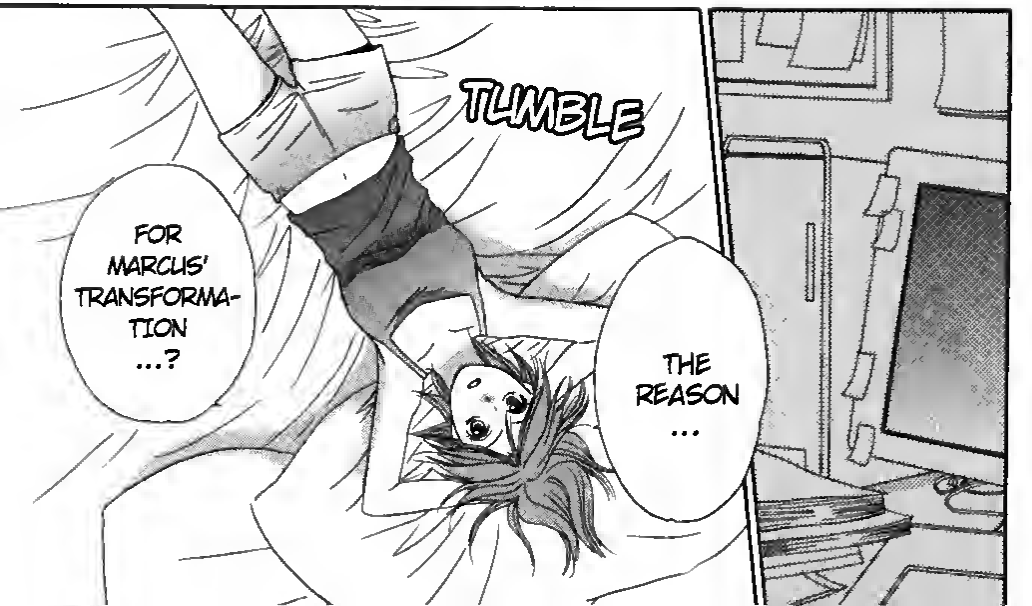
WE'VE GOT A NEW MENU SO ...
COME OVER AND TRY IT, OK?
YOU'LL DEFINITELY LIKE IT
OH ... OK!
WHAT ... WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?
DID MARCUS SAY THAT HIM TURNING OUT THIS WAY ...
IS ACTUALLY ...
MY FAULT ...?
MY NEIGHBOR MARCUS AND I HAVE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR YEARS.
SINCE WE WERE KIDS I ALWAYS KNEW MORE ABOUT HIM THAN ANYONE ELSE.
THERE, THERE.
HE WAS A DELICATE CHILD WHO WOULD CRY ALL THE TIME ...
WHEN HIS MOM WENT TO WORK AND LEFT HIM HOME ALONE.
HE WAS 3 YEARS OLDER THAN ME BUT COULDN'T TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF AT ALL.
I THOUGHT THAT I'D ALWAYS HAVE TO PROTECT HIM.

I'M WITH YOU ON THAT ONE, LETTY.
YEAH. TELL ME ABOUT IT!
I NEVER KNEW ANYONE LIKE THAT.
PATIENTLY LISTEN TO ME COMPLAIN ABOUT WORK...
HE WOULD ESCORT ME EVERY-WHERE OR ...
SAY, SHARON.
WHY IS MARCUS SO NICE TO EVERYONE?
WAS HE ALWAYS LIKE THIS?
SNIFF
HOW CAN HE BE SO CRUEL TO TOY WITH A GIRL'S HEART?!
THEY ALL DID ...
I REALLY THOUGHT WE HAD SOME-THING ...!
WAAH!
THAT MARCUS WHAT AN AWFUL GUY ...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT MARCUS!
BUT NOW ...
HE WAS SO NICE TO ME, OF COURSE ANYONE WOULD GET THEIR HOPES UP...!


IS HE LIVING ALONE NOW?
YEAH. MARCUS' MOTHER REMARRIED WHEN HE WAS ABOUT 20 ...
AND MOVED IN WITH HER NEW PARTNER.
THAT WAS SOME TIME AGO.
I SEE ...
I GUESS IT'S NO WONDER HE TURNED OUT THIS WAY.
GROWING UP LONELY AND LONGING FOR SOME COMPANY ...
YEAH, I GUESS.
I THINK HE ALWAYS HAD THIS NICE STREAK IN HIM.
I CAN COUNT ON ONE HAND ALL THE TIMES HE EVER GOT ANGRY.
IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN DUE TO HIS HOME ENVIRONMENT BUT ...
HE'D ALWAYS REACT PASSIVELY TO WHATEVER HAPPENED ...
HUH?
I MEAN...
THAT MAY HAVE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT ...
BUT IT WOULDN'T EXPLAIN ALL OF HIS TRANSFORMATION.
REALLY?
AT ANY RATE, HE WASN'T LIKE THIS AS A KID.
IF MY MEMORY SERVES ME RIGHT ...
NO.
I DON'T THINK IT'S THAT.
STAAAAAARE

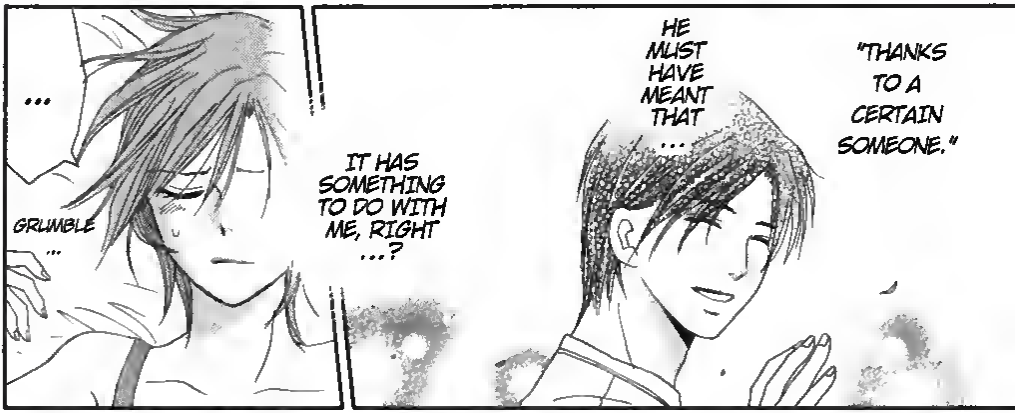
HE WAS, HMMM, VERY SHY.
AND HE WOULDN'T TALK THAT MUCH ...
HMMM
NO WAY!
IT HAS BEEN SOME TIME NOW SO I'M NOT CERTAIN BUT ... I DEFINITELY REMEMBER MARCUS BEING RATHER WELL-BEHAVED
HUH?
BUT FOR HIS PERSONALITY TO CHANGE COMPLETELY LIKE THAT ... SOMETHING BIG MUST HAVE HAPPENED IN HIS LIFE.
HUH ...
NOW THAT SHE MENTIONS IT ...
I GUESS I NEVER DID GIVE IT MUCH THOUGHT.
MORE THAN MARCUS' TRANSFORMATION ...
I WAS SHOCKED ABOUT THE FACT THAT HE STARTED TO GET ALONG WITH GIRLS ...
OTHER THAN ME.
THAT TIME ...
I FINALLY REALIZED IT.
I REALIZED THAT I WAS IN LOVE WITH MARCUS THIS WHOLE TIME ...
BUT ...
IT SEEMS THAT YOU'RE STILL A VERY IMPORTANT PERSON IN MARCUS' LIFE, SHARON.
HUH?

I MEAN ...
WHENEVER MARCUS TALKS ABOUT YOU ...
HE ALWAYS SEEMS SO HAPPY.


TUMBLE
FOR MARCUS' TRANSFORMATION ...?
THE REASON ...

SO I STARTED AVOIDING HIM AND NOW I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT THAT TIME.
I WAS DEALING WITH THE SUDDEN REALIZATION OF MY FEELINGS FOR MARCUS ...
BACK THEN ...
IT'S ALL SO BITTERSWEET ...

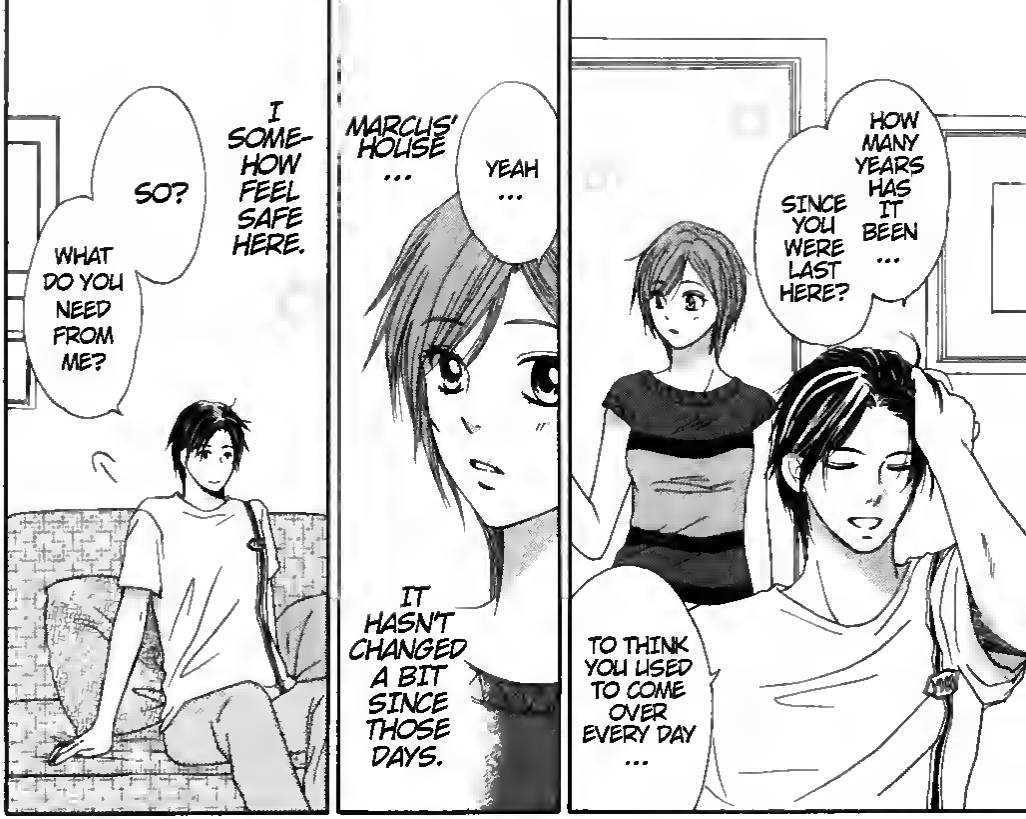
I DON'T KNOW. ..
IT'S USELESS ...
...


...
GRUMBLE ...
IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH ME, RIGHT ...?
HE MUST HAVE MEANT THAT ...
"THANKS TO A CERTAIN SOMEONE."

I SHOULD JUST GO AND ASK HIM DIRECTLY!!
THINKING ABOUT IT WON'T SOLVE ANYTHING.
ENOUGH!
WEEEN
PIPE DOWN, SHAGON!

WAH!
WEEN
I DON'T GET IT!

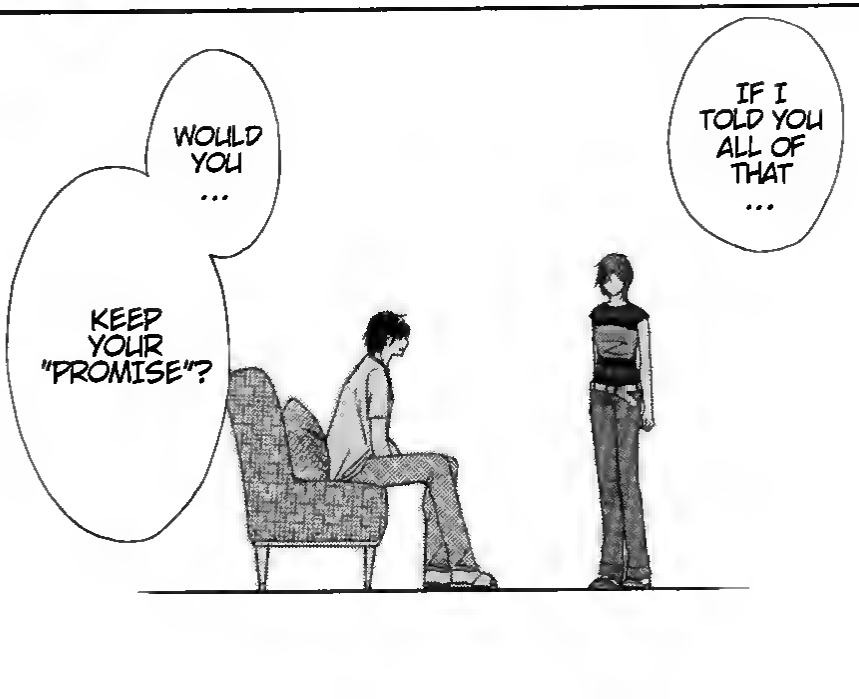
THE ONE NEXT TO IT ...
ABOUT 10 MIN. ON FOOT FROM MY PLACE ...
IS THE HOUSE WHERE MY MOM AND DAD LIVE.
SLEEPY
BELONGS TO MARCUS.
SHARON ...?
1986
WOW
FROM ME ...?
THAT ALMOST NEVER HAPPENS.
I KNOW THAT.
I CAME OVER BECAUSE I NEED SOME-THING FROM YOU.
OVER THERE
WAIT
ISN'T YOUR HOUSE NEXT DOOR ...?


HOW MANY YEARS HAS IT BEEN ...
SINCE YOU WERE LAST HERE?
TO THINK YOU USED TO COME OVER EVERY DAY ...
YEAH ...
MARCUS' HOUSE ...
IT HASN'T CHANGED A BIT SINCE THOSE DAYS.
I SOMEHOW FEEL SAFE HERE.
SO?
WHAT DO YOU NEED FROM ME?

OH ... THAT IS ...
I ACTUALLY WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT SOMETHING ...
PFF ...!
HAHAHA!
FROM THAT SERIOUS LOOK ON YOUR FACE ...
I GATHER YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE TO ASK ABOUT "THAT." COME ON, SHARON!

WAIT
HANG ON ...
PFFF!
ONE ....
TWO ....
ARE YOU REALLY COUNTING?
THAT WAS SUCH A LONG TIME AGO.
HOW MANY YEARS HAS IT BEEN?
MARCUS!
I'M SERIOUS!
IT'S DRIVING ME CRAZY (w;)
B-BUT ...
HEE HEE
WAIT
WHEN YOU SAY "THAT ...
12 ...
13.
13 YEARS?
RIGHT?
14 YEARS.
IT'S BEEN 14 YEARS.

MARCUS ...?
MAR ...
SO, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?
TELL ME, SHARON: WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU KNEW?
WHY I STOPPED BEING SHY?
DOES IT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU?
EH ...?
WHAT WOULD I...?


IF I TOLD YOU ALL OF THAT ...
WOULD YOU ...
KEEP YOUR "PROMISE"?

PROMISE ...?
W... WHAT ...?
IT'S NO USE, SHARON.
THE BURDEN OF REMEMBERING THAT IS ON YOU.
MARCUS ...
PLEASE TELL ME.
WHAT DID I ...
I TOLD YOU.
IT'S NO USE.

I'VE WAITED 14 YEARS.
I DON'T CARE HOW LONG IT TAKES YOU TO REMEMBER ...
I WILL WAIT UNTIL THEN.

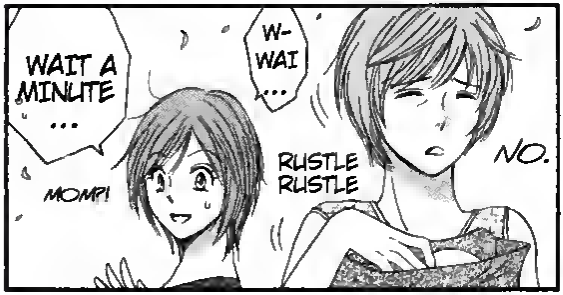
PUSH PUSH
...!
MARCUS ...
PULL!
WE'RE DONE TALKING.
THE REST IS UP TO YOU.
IF YOU CAN, TRY TO UNDERSTAND THE PAIN I HAD TO ENDURE ...
FOR THE PAST 14 YEARS. THAT WOULD MAKE ME VERY HAPPY.
SEE YOU.

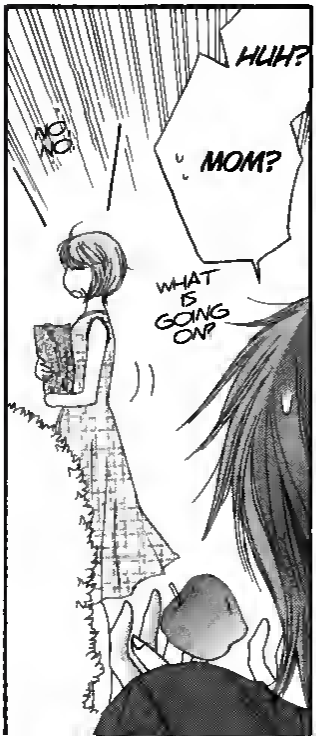
MARCUS ...
WHAT ...
IN THE WORLD DID I FORGET?
SLAM
...
...!
HI MOM.
WHAT HAPPENED? ARE YOU STAYING OVER TODAY?
I... NEEDED SOMETHING FROM MARCUS.
OH, I SEE.
THE RESTAURANT MARCUS WORKS AT IS VERY POPULAR.
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT ...
YOU DIDN'T?
THEY SAY THE FOOD THERE IS DELICIOUS.
SHARON?
MARCUS SAID ... THAT HE HAD TO ENDURE SOMETHING BUT WHAT WAS IT...?

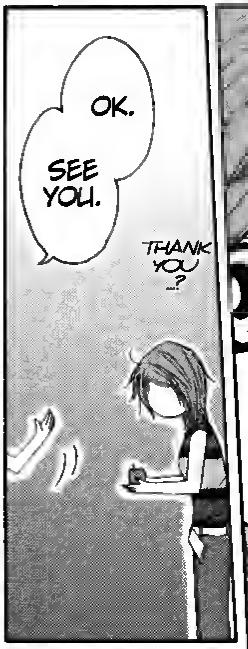
SHARON, YOU ...
NO.
WHA?
SHAME ON YOU.
HAAH ...
?!

?

HE'S BECOME A FIRST RATE COOK.
EVEN I'M PROUD OF HIM. ♪
SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHEN DID MARCUS DECIDE TO BECOME A COOK?
WHEN WAS THAT?
♪

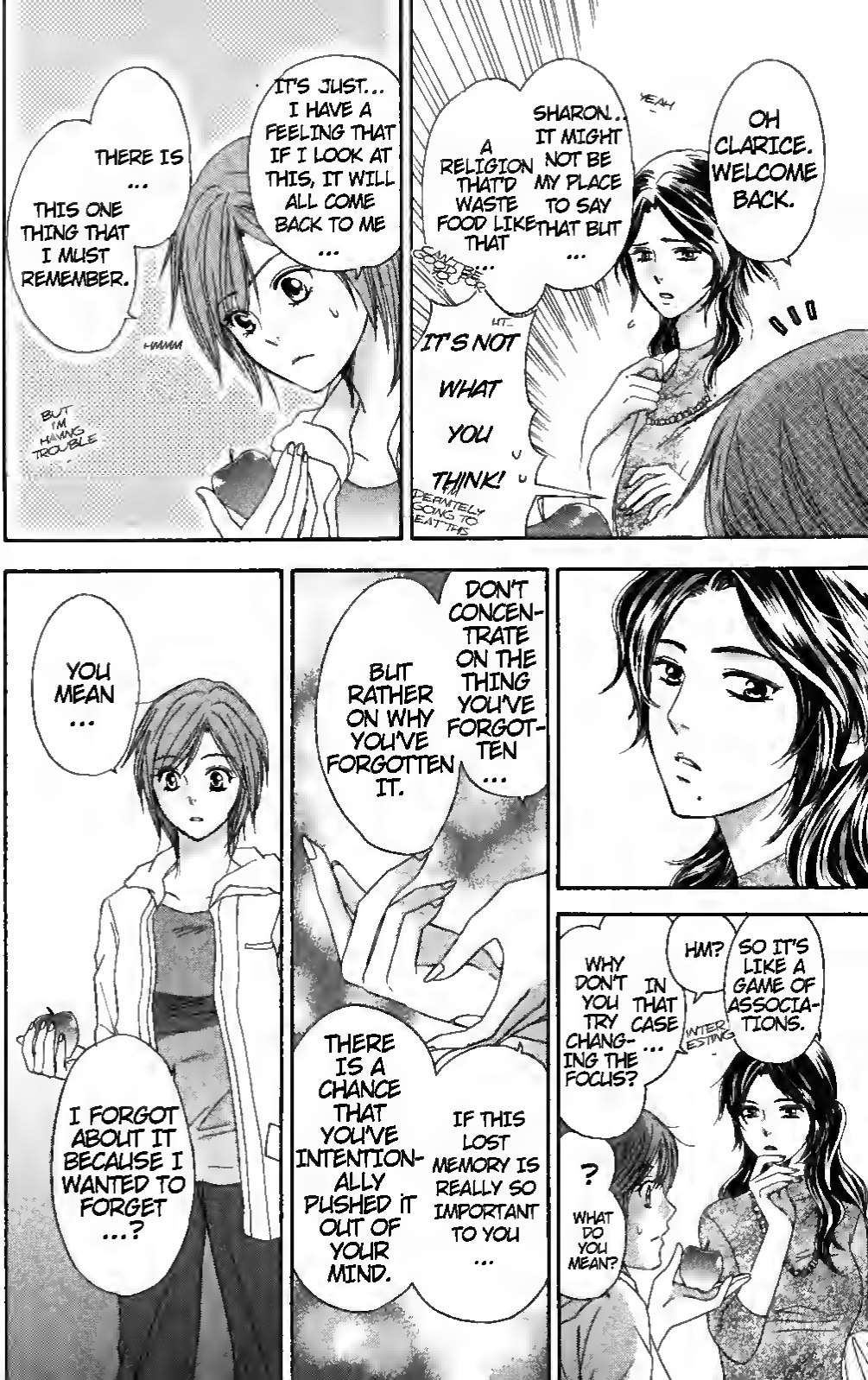

WAIT A MINUTE ...
MOM?!
W-WAI ...
RUSTLE RUSTLE
NO.

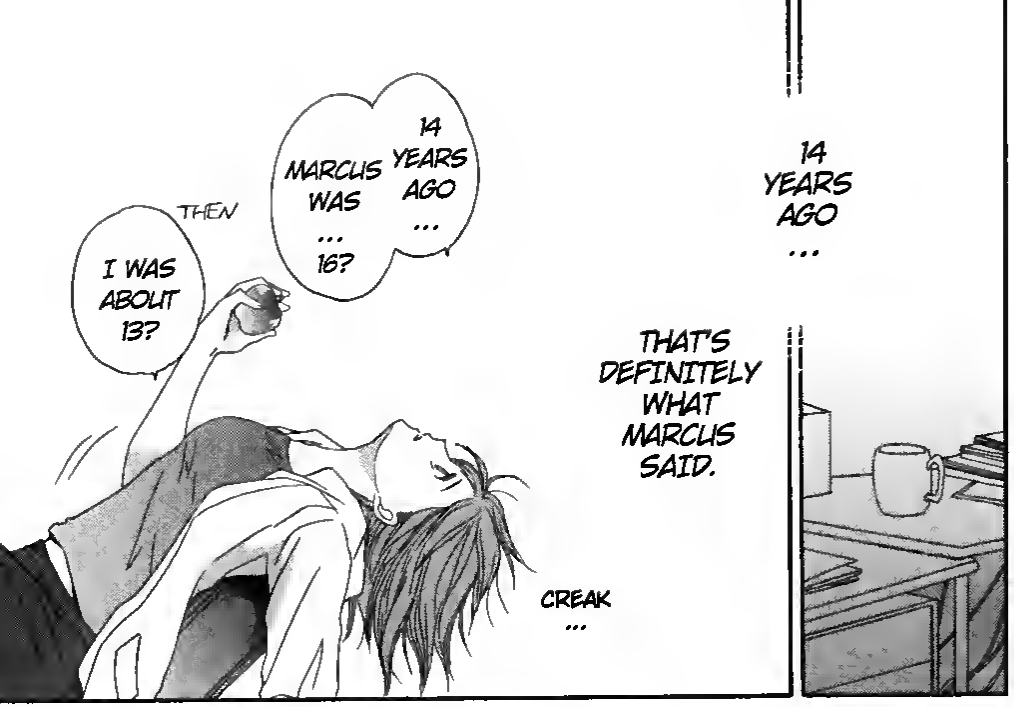

HUH?
MOM?
NO, NO.
WHAT IS GOING ON?

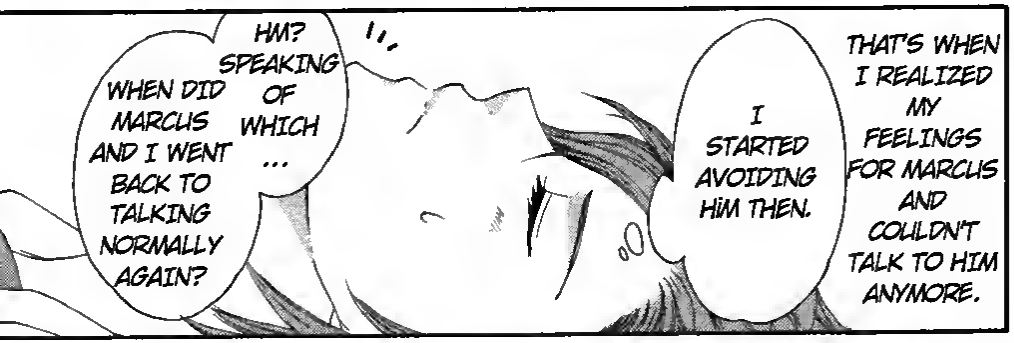

OK.
SEE YOU.
THANK YOU ...?

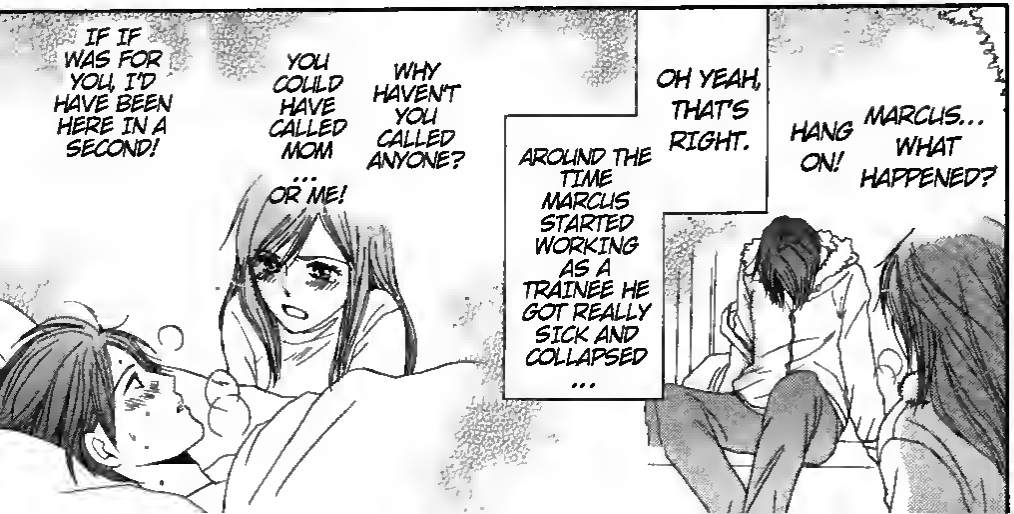
HERE.

WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?
FIRST MARCUS AND NOW MOM ...
WHAT ...
...?!
STAAARE
HUH?
ARE YOU PRAYING TO THAT?
STAAARE
STAAARE

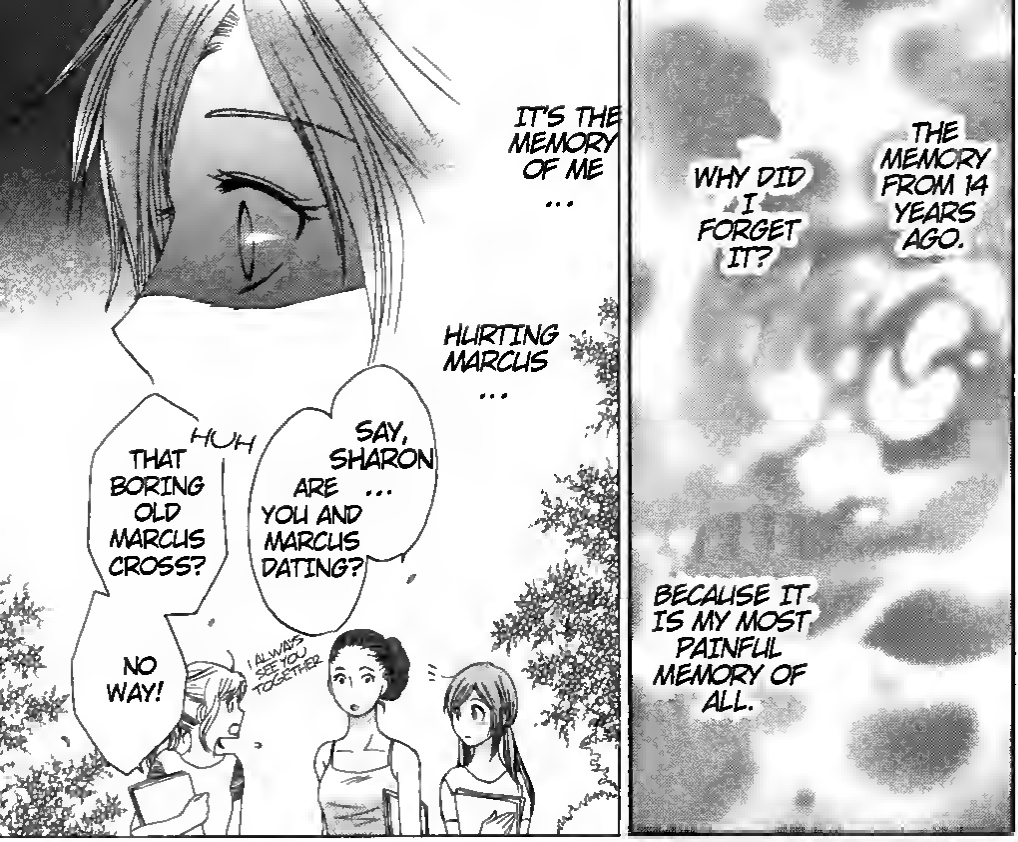

IT'S JUST... I HAVE A FEELING THAT IF I LOOK AT THIS, IT WILL ALL COME BACK TO ME ...
THERE IS ... THIS ONE THING THAT I MUST REMEMBER.
HMMM
BUT I'M HAVING TROUBLE
OH CLARICE. WELCOME BACK.
YEAH
SHARON.. IT MIGHT NOT BE MY PLACE TO SAY THAT BUT ...
A RELIGION THAT'D WASTE FOOD LIKE THAT ...
CAN'T BE GOOD FOR YOU
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK!
DEFINITELY GOING TO BEAT THIS
YOU MEAN ...
I FORGOT ABOUT IT BECAUSE I WANTED TO FORGET ...?
DON'T CONCENTRATE ON THE THING YOU'VE FORGOTTEN ...
BUT RATHER ON WHY YOU'VE FORGOTTEN IT.
THERE IS A CHANCE THAT YOU'VE INTENTIONALLY PUSHED IT OUT OF YOUR MIND.
IF THIS LOST MEMORY IS REALLY SO IMPORTANT TO YOU ...
HM?
SO IT'S LIKE A GAME OF ASSOCIATIONS.
WHY DON'T YOU TRY CHANGING THE FOCUS?
IN THAT CASE ...
INTERESTING
?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

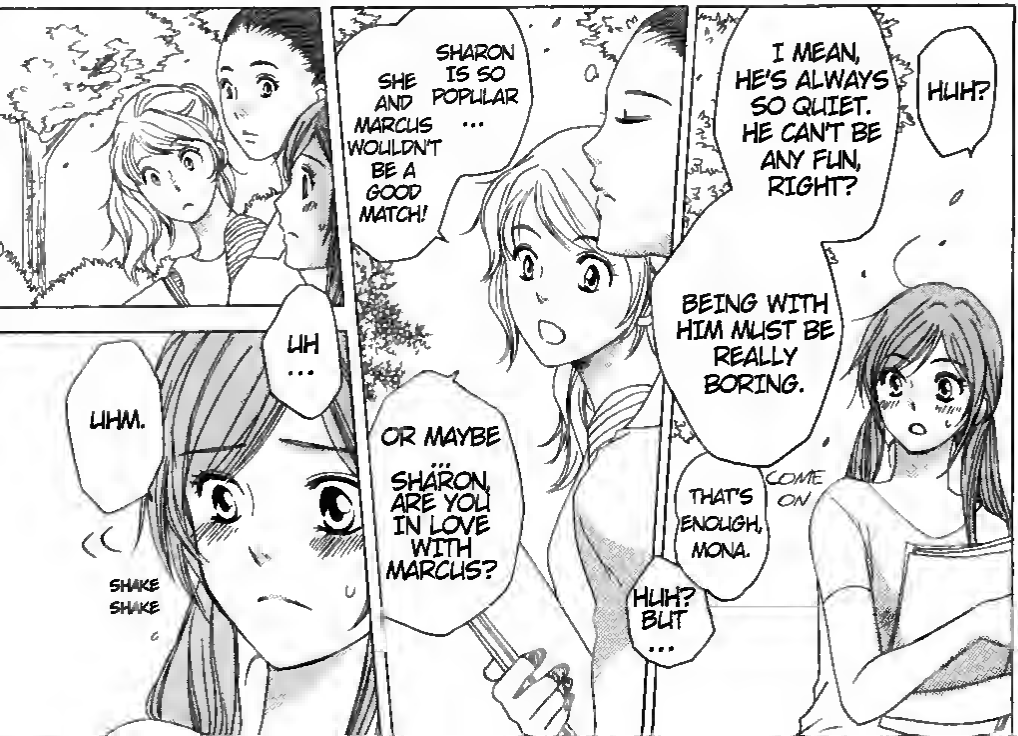

14 YEARS AGO ...
THAT'S DEFINITELY WHAT MARCUS SAID.
CREAK ...
THEN
I WAS ABOUT 13?
MARCUS WAS ... 16?
14 YEARS AGO ...


I STARTED AVOIDING HIM THEN.
THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED MY FEELINGS FOR MARCUS AND COULDN'T TALK TO HIM ANYMORE.
HM? SPEAKING OF WHICH ...
WHEN DID MARCUS AND I WENT BACK TO TALKING NORMALLY AGAIN?


MARCUS... WHAT HAPPENED?
HANG ON!
OH YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
AROUND THE TIME MARCUS STARTED WORKING AS A TRAINEE HE GOT REALLY SICK AND COLLAPSED ...
WHY HAVEN'T YOU CALLED ANYONE?
YOU COULD HAVE CALLED MOM ... OR ME!
IF IF WAS FOR YOU, I'D HAVE BEEN HERE IN A SECOND!

HUH?
...?!
BLINK
YEAH, I KNOW.
THAT'S WHY I'VE CHOSEN THIS JOB.
SORRY, MARCUS.
I HAVE ZERO TALENT FOR COOKING ...
SOUP
THEN IN RETURN I WILL GO OUT AND WORK REALLY HARD AND EARN LOTS OF MONEY.
REALLY, MARCUS?
I WILL BECOME REALLY GOOD AT IT AND DO SHARON'S WORK FOR HER.
THAT'S OK, AUNTY.
SHARON IS REALLY UN-SKILLED FOR A GIRL.
HUMPH
THAT JUST NOW ...
...
COULD IT BE ...
THAT MARCUS CHOSE TO BECOME A COOK BE-CAUSE OF THAT PROPOSAL?!
HUH?!
A-AA ...
THEN YOU CAN BECOME MY BRIDE, MARCUS.
OKAY
REMEMBERED?
I GUESS IT'S NOT SO STRANGE BUT -
...
JOLT


IT'S THE MEMORY OF ME ...
HURTING MARCUS ...
HUH
THAT BORING OLD MARCUS CROSS?
SAY, SHARON ... ARE YOU AND MARCUS DATING?
NO WAY!
I ALWAYS SEE YOU TOGETHER
WHY DID I FORGET IT?
THE MEMORY FROM 14 YEARS AGO.
BECAUSE IT IS MY MOST PAINFUL MEMORY OF ALL.


SHE AND MARCUS WOULDN'T BE A GOOD MATCH!
SHARON IS SO POPULAR ...
I MEAN, HE'S ALWAYS SO QUIET. HE CAN'T BE ANY FUN, RIGHT?
HUH?
BEING WITH HIM MUST BE REALLY BORING.
COME ON
THAT'S ENOUGH, MONA.
HUH? BUT ...
UH ...
UHM.
SHAKE SHAKE
OR MAYBE ... SHARON, ARE YOU IN LOVE WITH MARCUS?

BUT I -
YEAH, YEAH
TO INTRO-DUCE HIM TO YOU SHARON
YOU KNOW THE DEAN TOLD ME -
YEAH I THOUGHT SO TOO
NOT LIKE I LOVE MARCUS ...
IT'S ...
OR ANYTHING ...
FFFWSH

I AM
...
THE WORST.
DASH
AFTER HAVING CARELESSLY HURT MARCUS ...
I COULDN'T ENDURE IT ...
SO I RAN AWAY.
THAT'S WHY MARCUS HAS CHANGED.
IT WAS BECAUSE OF ME.
Restaurant Moon's

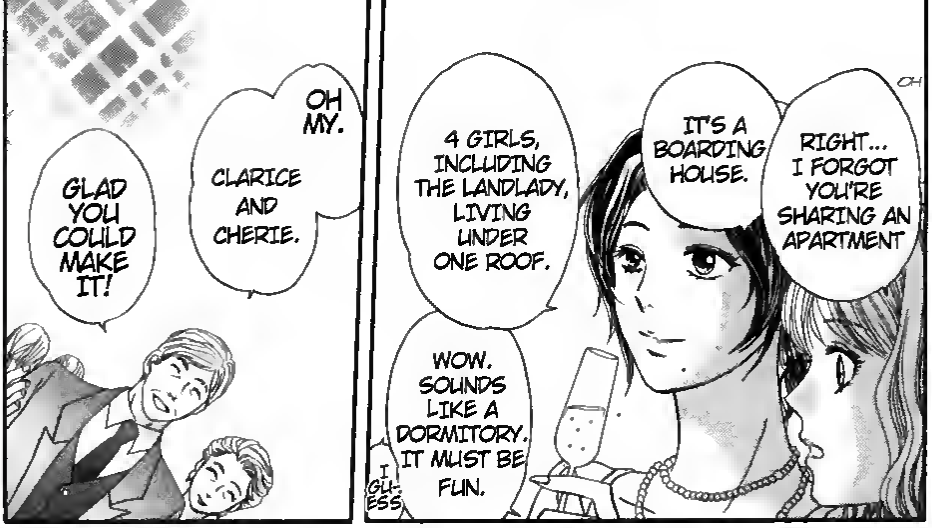
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
HOW CAN I MAKE UP ...
THOSE 14 YEARS ...
TO HIM?
OH. THANKS, MARCUS!
IS THIS ALL THE TRASH?
THAT'S OKAY
WE HAD LOTS OF CUSTOMERS TODAY AS WELL.
MAN, I'M SO TIRED..
YOU WANNA GO GRAB A DRINK LATER?
WELL...
HM?
MARCUS!!
AHAM!
WHAA?!
...!
SHARON?!
YOU SCARED ME
THE TRASH
I AM SO SORRY ...
SO VERY SORRY.
SHARON?

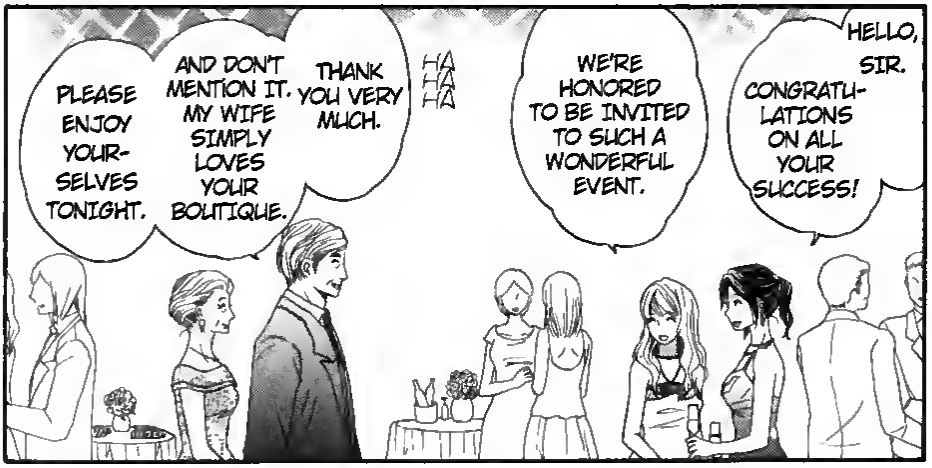
I KNOW THAT ...
IT'S TOO LATE FOR AN APOLOGY.
BUT ...
I AM SORRY.
AND I DO LOVE YOU.
I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YOU.
I JUST COULDN'T SAY IT.
SHARON.
RAISE YOUR HEAD.
OH, THAT?
I KNEW THAT.
FOR A LONG TIME.
!
FLUMP

I'VE WAITED 14 YEARS ...
TO SEE YOUR FACE LIKE THIS.
YOU SURE TOOK YOUR TIME
WHEN I TOLD HIM THAT ...
MARCUS SAID "SAME TO YOU" ...
AND LAUGHED.
JUST LIKE WE PROMISED. YOU WILL BE THE BRIDE, MARCUS.
YEAH
I'LL DO MY BEST --
WAIL WAIL
THE PROPOSAL THAT DEFIED TIME - END

I MET A GODDESS
IN THE MORNING
APPLEHOUSE SERIES 2

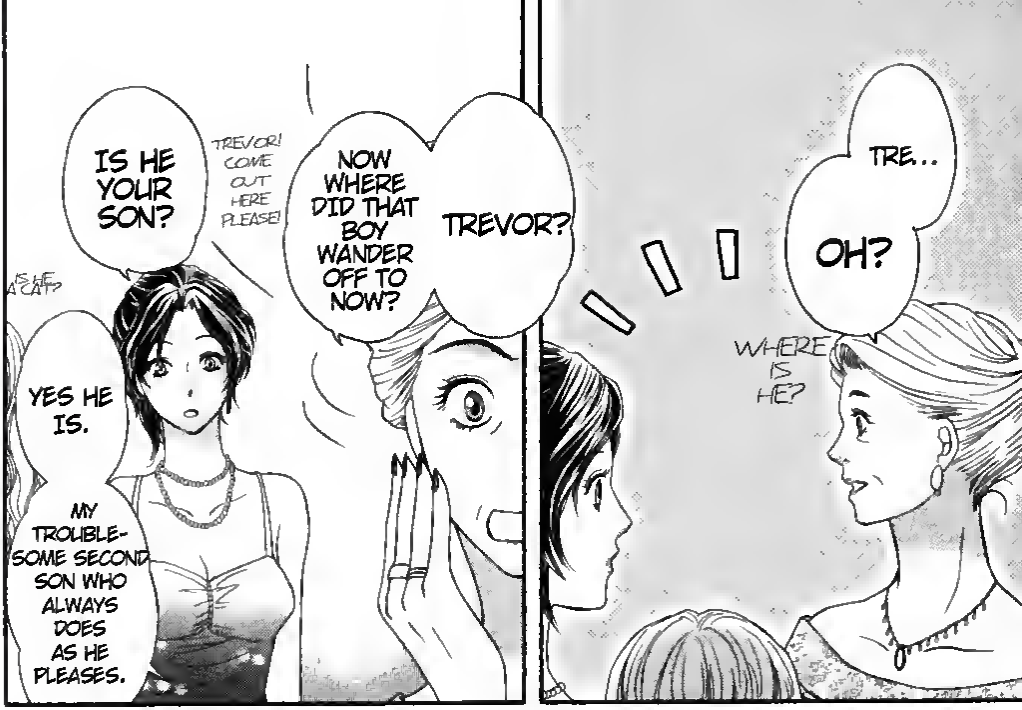
BISHOP PUBLISHING'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY
Bishop Publishing Anniversary 30th
CLARICE!
OVER HERE!
YOU'RE LATE. WHERE WERE YOU?
I WAS CLEANING THE BATH-ROOM.
WHAT?
IT'S MY TURN THIS WEEK.
IF I'VE ASKED SOMEONE TO DO IT FOR ME, IT WOULD COST ME A LOT, SO I SCRUBBED LIKE CRAZY AND HURRIED OVER HERE!

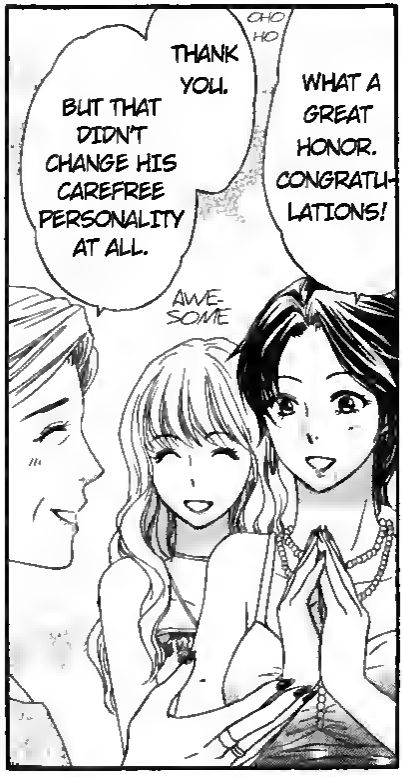

OH MY.
CLARICE AND CHERIE.
GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT!
4 GIRLS, INCLUDING THE LANDLADY, LIVING UNDER ONE ROOF.
IT'S A BOARDING HOUSE.
RIGHT... I FORGOT YOU'RE SHARING AN APARTMENT
WOW. SOUNDS LIKE A DORMITORY. IT MUST BE FUN.
I GUESS


PLEASE ENJOY YOUR-SELVES TONIGHT.
AND DON'T MENTION IT. MY WIFE SIMPLY LOVES YOUR BOUTIQUE.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
HA HA HA
WE'RE HONORED TO BE INVITED TO SUCH A WONDERFUL EVENT.
HELLO, SIR. CONGRATU-LATIONS ON ALL YOUR SUCCESS!

A VERY TALENTED WRITER FROM OUR OWN FAMILY.
OH HO HO
RIGHT ...
TREVOR?

WHO WILL YOU BE HONORING THEN?
I'D LOVE TO.
YOU MUST ALSO COME TO OUR AUTHOR CELEBRATION PARTY NEXT MONTH.
THIS DRESS YOU'VE CHOSEN FOR ME IS GETTING A LOT COMPLI-MENTS, CLARICE.

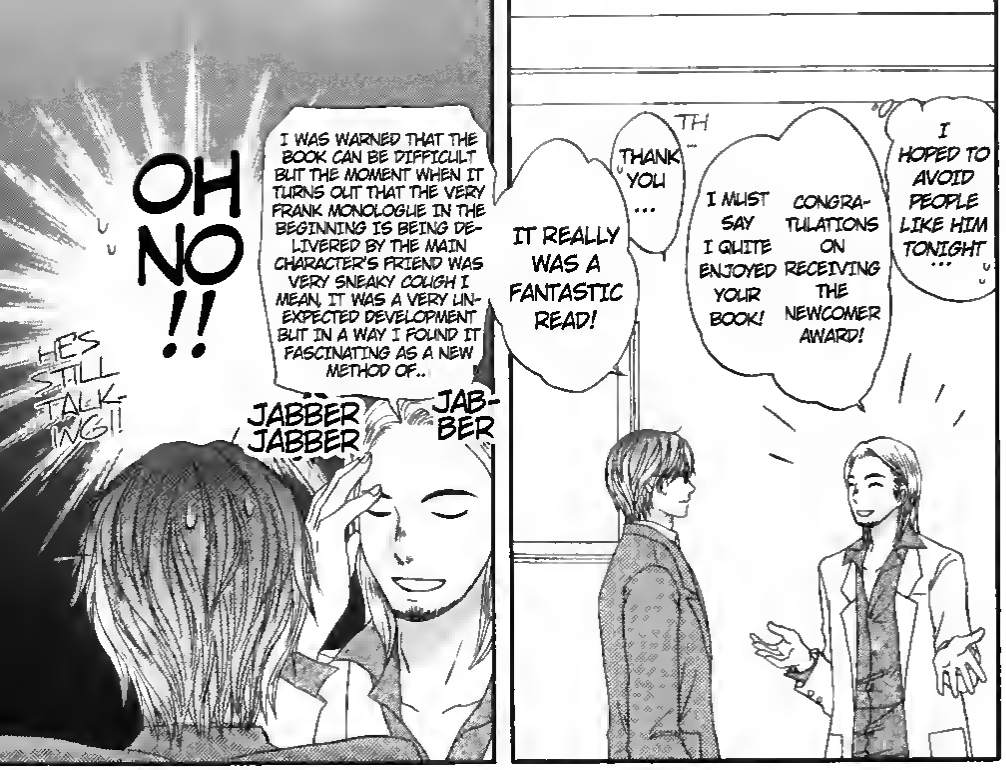

TRE...
OH?
WHERE IS HE?
NOW WHERE DID THAT BOY WANDER OFF TO NOW?
TREVOR?
TREVOR! COME OUT HERE PLEASE!
IS HE A CAT?
IS HE YOUR SON?
YES HE IS.
MY TROUBLE-SOME SECOND SON WHO ALWAYS DOES AS HE PLEASES.


WHAT A GREAT HONOR. CONGRATU-LATIONS!
CHO HO
THANK YOU.
BUT THAT DIDN'T CHANGE HIS CAREFREE PERSONALITY AT ALL.
AWE-SOME

OH WOW!
THAT FAMOUS LITERARY AWARD?!
SO WE THOUGHT WE'D HOLD A PARTY IN HIS HONOR.
BUT THIS YEAR HE FINALLY RECEIVED THE CRYSTAL HOUSE NEWCOMER AWARD!
HE MADE HIS DEBUT WHEN HE WAS STILL IN SCHOOL AND SINCE THEN HASN'T REALLY HAD MUCH SUCCESS WITH HIS WORKS.

I HAD NO IDEA THAT THE ARKWRIGHT'S SON WAS A WRITER.
TELL ME ABOUT IT.
A PRETTY TALENTED ONE TOO, FROM THE LOOKS OF IT.
HMMM
NOW GO AND ENJOY THE PARTY, YOU TWO!
IF YOU SEE AN ABSENTMINDED YOUNG MAN WITH GLASSES, PLEASE TELL ME.
THANK YOU
EXCUSE ME ...
ARE YOU TREVOR ARKWRIGHT, THE AUTHOR?
EASY NOW -
ABSENT-MINDED AND WEARS GLASSES
YOU THINK HE'S SINGLE?
I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR HIM!
OH, RIGHT!
BE SURE TO NOT DRINK TOO MUCH TODAY, CLARICE!
YES, YES.
I DON'T WANT TO CARRY YOU BACK!

HUH ...?
YES ...
IT IS YOU!
I'VE FINALLY FOUND YOU.
MY NAME IS JIMMY HARTSON.
LET ME GIVE YOU MY CARD.
...
MR. HARTSON THE CRITIC ....?
OOH! I'M HONORED THAT YOU KNOW WHO I AM!
YOUR COLUMN IN M WEEKLY IS WELL KNOWN.
WELL KNOWN FOR HARSHLY CRITICIZING MOVIE DIRECTORS AND WRITERS ...
THIS IS BAD ...


I HOPED TO AVOID PEOPLE LIKE HIM TONIGHT ...
CONGRATULATIONS ON RECEIVING THE NEWCOMER AWARD!
I MUST SAY I QUITE ENJOYED YOUR BOOK!
TH
THANK YOU ...
IT REALLY WAS A FANTASTIC READ!
I WAS WARNED THAT THE BOOK CAN BE DIFFICULT BUT THE MOMENT WHEN IT TURNS OUT THAT THE VERY FRANK MONOLOGUE IN THE BEGINNING IS BEING DELIVERED BY THE MAIN CHARACTER'S FRIEND WAS VERY SNEAKY COUGH I MEAN, IT WAS A VERY UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENT BUT IN A WAY I FOUND IT FASCINATING AS A NEW METHOD OF..
JABBER JABBER
JABBER
OH NO!!
HE'S STILL TALKING!!

CLICK ...
CHERIE ...?
NOW WHERE ...
DID SHE GO OFF TO?

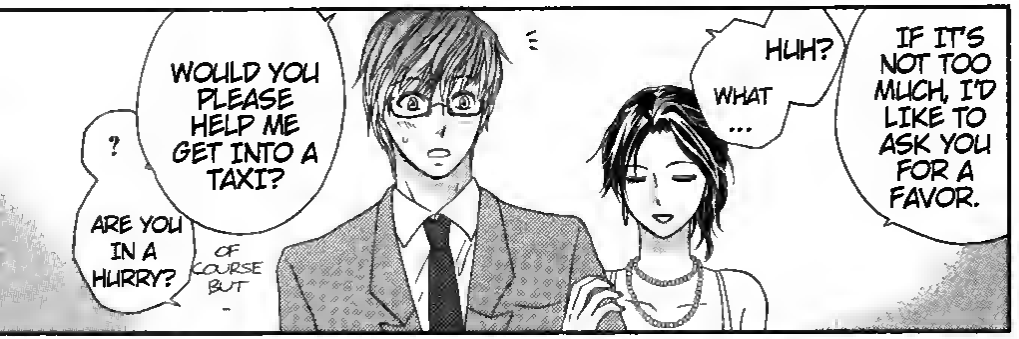
HICCUP
MAYBE SHE'S WITH THAT SECOND SON AUTHOR?
OR SOMEBODY ELSE ...?
IN SHORT, WHAT THE BOOK LACKS IS ...
LILIHM ...
MR. ARKWRIGHT ...
ARE YOU LISTENING?
I'M LISTENING I'M LISTENING
I ...
I SHOULD PROBABLY ...
THIS IS WHAT I THINK!
THE SCENE WHERE THE HEROINE APPEARS ...

YOU!
FOUND ...
LACKED IMPACT, YOU S...
I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU ...
DARLING.

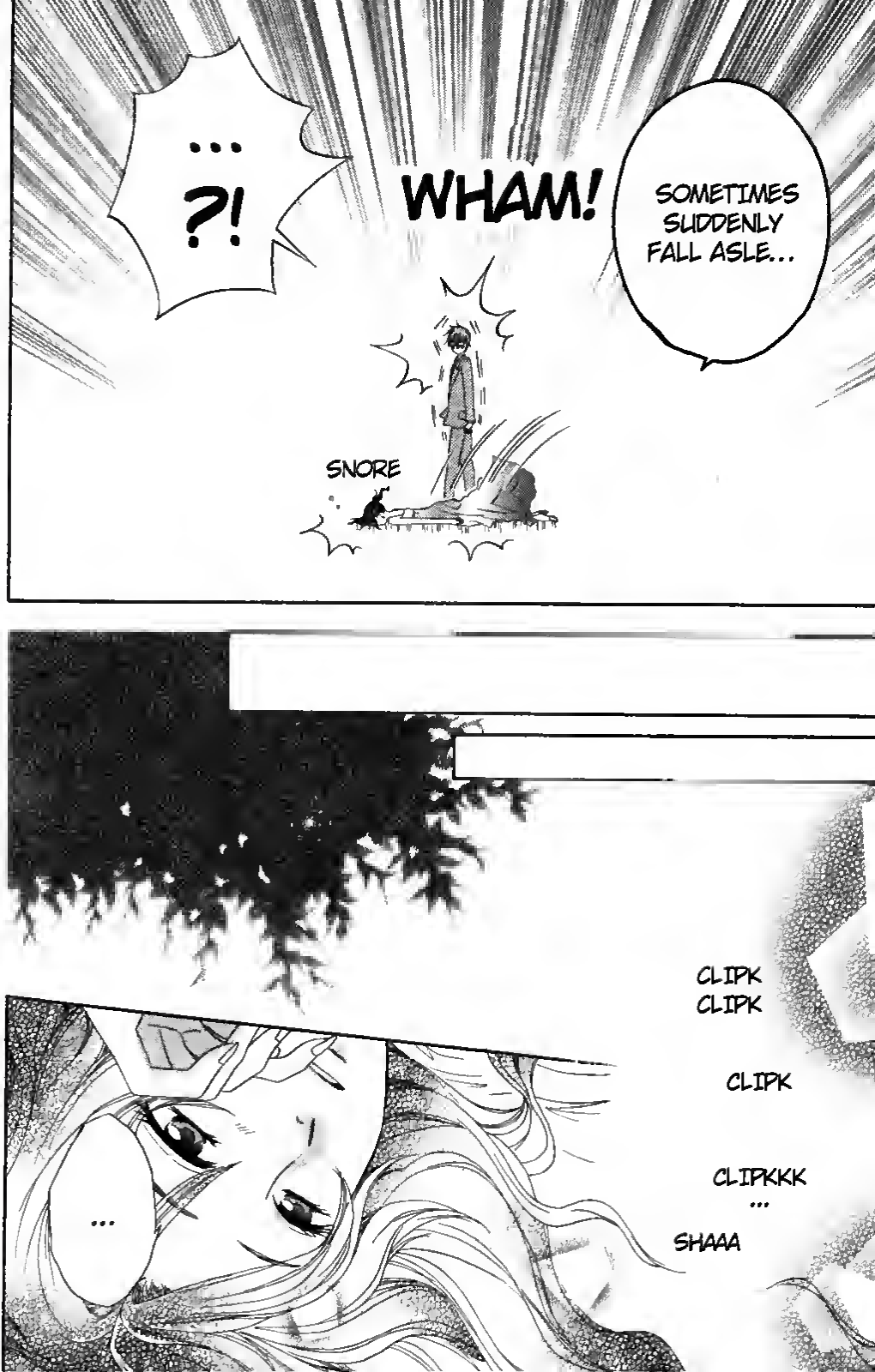
HUH?
YOU'RE SO MEAN, LEAVING ME ALL ALONE LIKE THAT.
YOU PROMISED THERE WOULD BE NO TALK OF WORK TONIGHT ...
AND THAT YOU'LL BE BY MY SIDE THE ENTIRE TIME ...
OH? ARE THOSE YOUR PUBLISHERS?
I'M SORRY BUT I HAD HIM FIRST.
EXCUSE US.
PUSH PUSH
LET'S GO.
HUH?
THAT IS... YES.
TOTALLY
AGAPE

TROT
TROT
TROT
WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU ...?
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN TRAPPED BY HIM?
HUH?
WASN'T THAT "FAULT-FINDING HART-SON"?
A SELF-APPOINTED CRITIC FAMOUS FOR HIS LOOSE TONGUE AND CRUEL HUMOR?
I ... THAT IS ... YES.

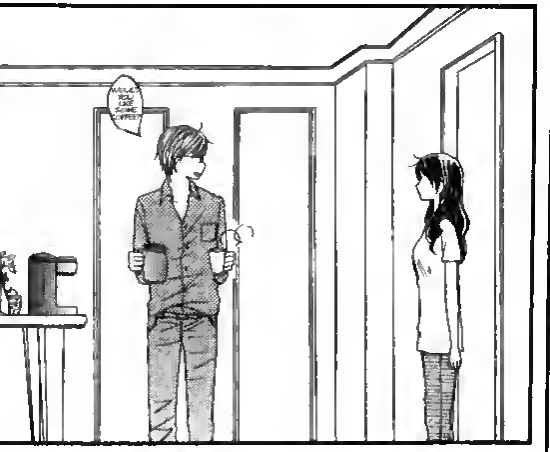
TH...
THANK YOU FOR RESCUING ME.
I AM...
TREVOR ARK-WRIGHT, THE UP-AND-COMING AUTHOR.
RIGHT?
...?!
HOW...
TEE HEE
I'M CLARICE.
CLARICE COLEMAN.

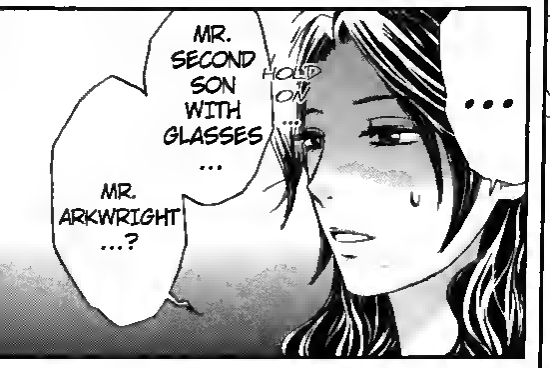

IF IT'S NOT TOO MUCH, I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU FOR A FAVOR.
HUH?
WHAT...
WOULD YOU PLEASE HELP ME GET INTO A TAXI?
?
ARE YOU IN A HURRY?
OF COURSE BUT -

TO BE HONEST, I'M AT MY LI-MITS.
HUH?
ARE YOU NOT FEELING...
WHEN I DRINK TOO MUCH I...

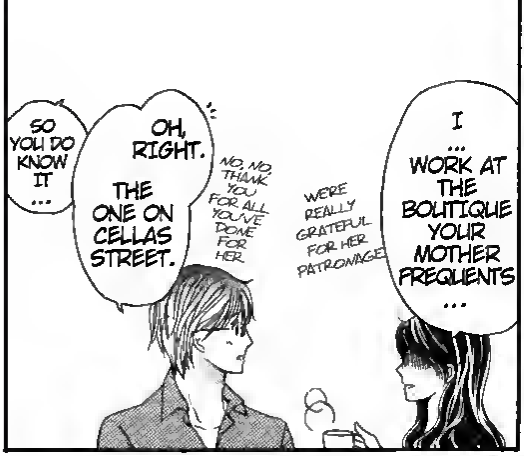

...
?!
WHAM!
SOMETIMES SUDDENLY FALL ASLE...
SNORE
CLIPK
CLIPK
CLIPK
CLIPKKK
...
SHAAA
...

GOOD MORNING, CLARICE.
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

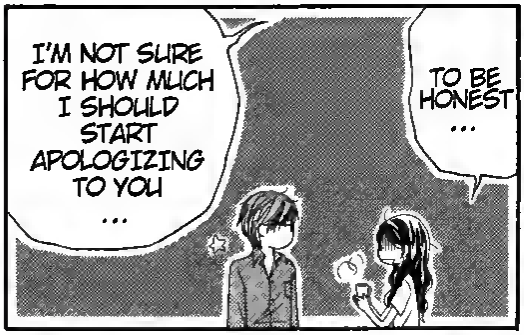

WOULD YOU LIKE SOME COFFEE?


MR. SECOND SON WITH GLASSES ...
HOLD ON ...
...
MR. ARKWRIGHT ...?

THE SOUND OF BOILING COFFEE ...
THE SWEET SMELL OF FRESH SCONES ...
THE BEST WAY TO WAKE UP ...
SMELLS SO GREAT.
BUT IS THAT SHARON IN THE KITCHEN?
THAT'S SO UNLIKE HER ...
MAYBE IT'S MARCUS ...

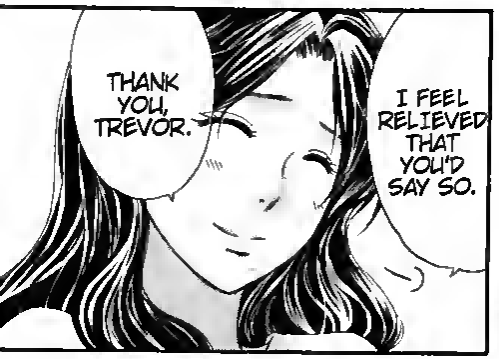

SO YOU DO KNOW IT ...
OH, RIGHT. THE ONE ON CELLAS STREET.
NO, NO THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR HER.
WE'RE REALLY GRATEFUL FOR HER PATRONAGE.
I ... WORK AT THE BOUTIQUE YOUR MOTHER FREQUENTS ...

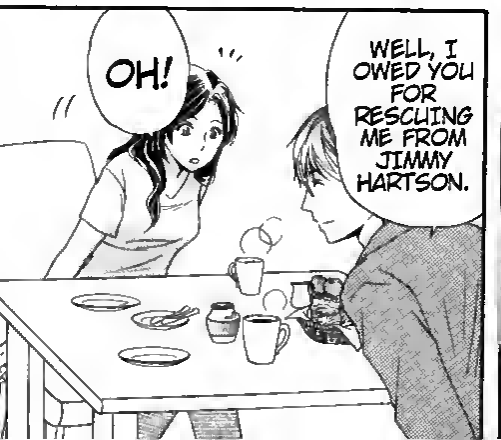
CALL ME TREVOR.
I DIDN'T KNOW ...
YOU WERE FRIENDS WITH MY MOTHER.
I RECOGNIZE THAT CATCH-PHRASE ANYWHERE ...


TO BE HONEST ...
I'M NOT SURE FOR HOW MUCH I SHOULD START APOLOGIZING TO YOU ...

I JUST DID AS YOUR FRIEND TOLD ME AND "ROLLED YOU INTO THE ROOM AS ALWAYS."
HUH? YOU MEAN CHERIE?
YOU MET HER?
THUMP
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
HAHA!
PFFF!

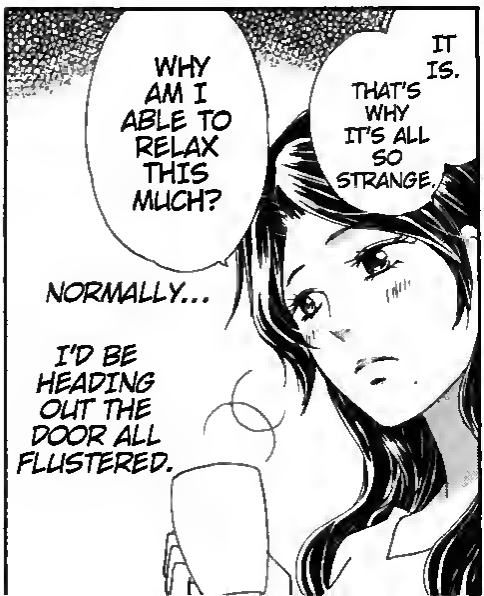
...!
CHERIE
...!
I'M SORRY. I USUALLY JUST STAY OVER AT HER PLACE BUT ...
YOU LEFT ME FOR A GUY!
IT SEEMS SHE HAD ANOTHER ENGAGE-MENT.
HUH?!
DON'T WORRY. YOU CAN JUST ROLL HER ON THE SOFA LIKE THIS.
SHE CAN MOVE ON HER OWN SO SHE WON'T BE A PROBLEM.
GREAT TIMING! COULD I ASK YOU TO TAKE CARE OF CLARICE? I KNOW I CAN TRUST YOU! RIGHT?
ARE YOU BY CHANCE MRS. ARKWRIGHT'S SON?
YOU'VE DONE IT AGAIN, CLARICE ... OH?
OH DEAR DEAR

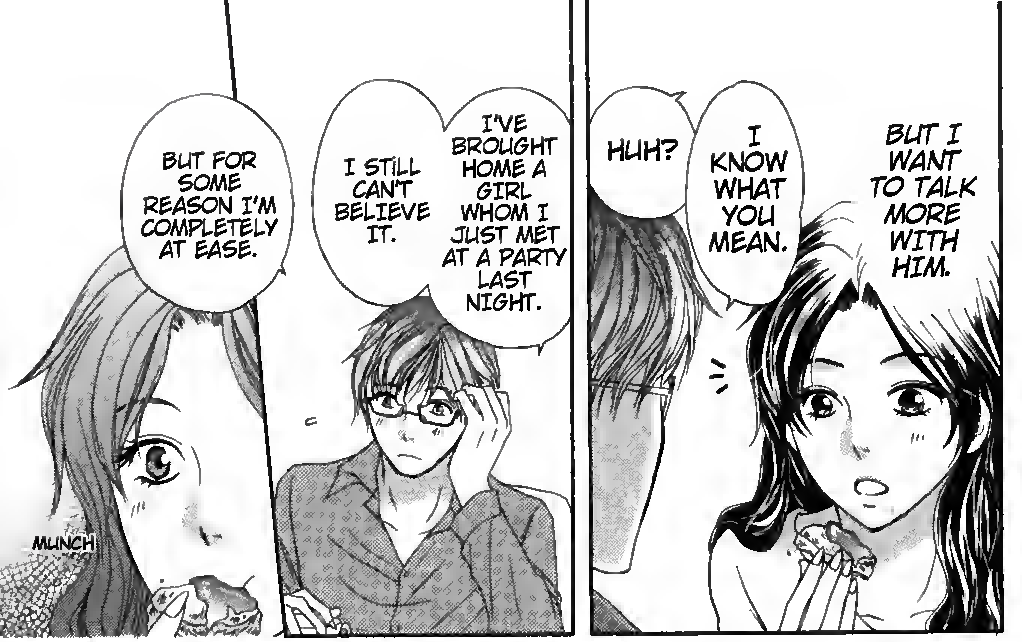

THANK YOU, TREVOR.
I FEEL RELIEVED THAT YOU'D SAY SO.

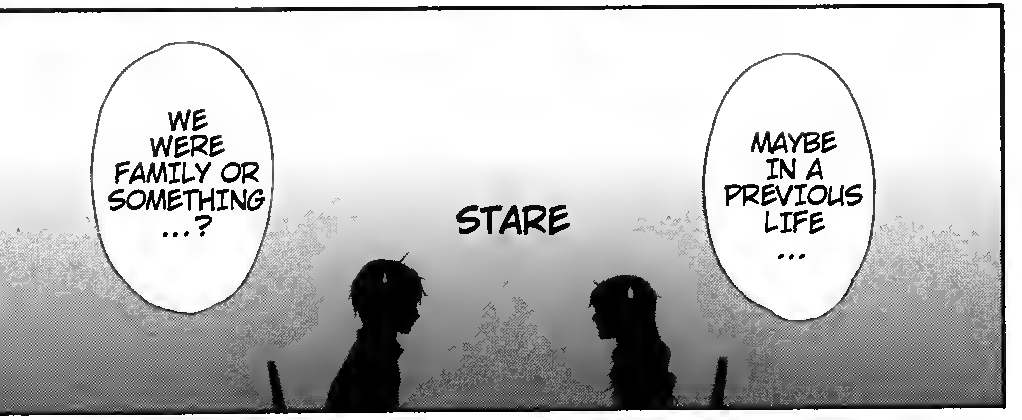

OH!
WELL, I OWED YOU FOR RESCUING ME FROM JIMMY HARTSON.

AND SO SHE LEFT ME WITH A MAN SHE JUST MET?!
BUT IT WAS JUST AS SHE SAID. YOU ARE THE LEAST PROBLEMATIC DRUNK I'VE EVER SEEN.
PLUS, I MUST CONFESS THAT I WELCOMED TO OPPORTUNITY TO GET OUT OF THAT DREADFUL PARTY.

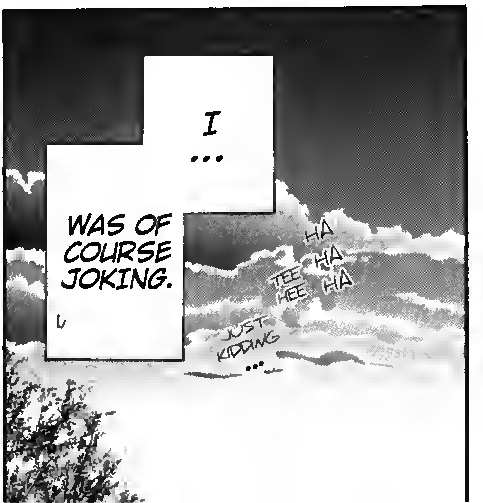
SO YOU JUST LET ANY GIRL INTO YOUR HOUSE AS LONG AS YOU OWE HER SOMETHING?
TEE HEE
YOU PUT UP A SERIOUS FRONT BUT ... I SEE THAT THOSE STILL WATERS RUN DEEP, MR. ARKWRIGHT.
COUGH
AS IF!
YOU ARE THE FIRST GIRL TO SPEND THE NIGHT HERE ... WHO WASN'T RELATED TO ME!


OH REALLY?
OF COURSE. AND WHAT ABOUT YOU?
OH
IT'S A FIRST FOR ME AS WELL.
IS THAT SO?
IT IS. THAT'S WHY IT'S ALL SO STRANGE.
WHY AM I ABLE TO RELAX THIS MUCH?
NORMALLY... I'D BE HEADING OUT THE DOOR ALL FLUSTERED.

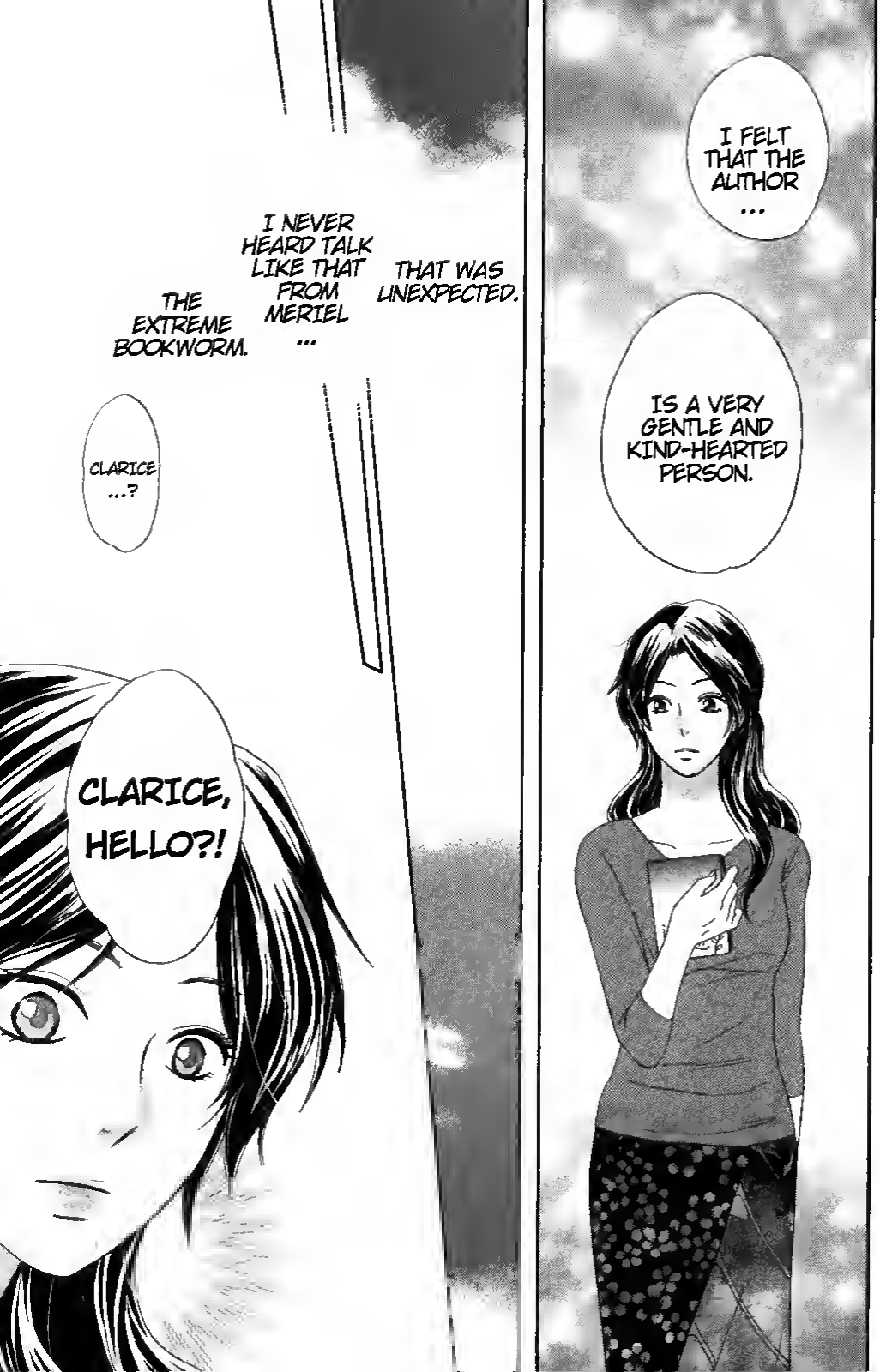

BUT FOR SOME REASON I'M COMPLETELY AT EASE.
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
I'VE BROUGHT HOME A GIRL WHOM I JUST MET AT A PARTY LAST NIGHT.
MUNCH
HUH?
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
BUT I WANT TO TALK MORE WITH HIM.


WE WERE FAMILY OR SOMETHING ...?
STARE
MAYBE IN A PREVIOUS LIFE ...

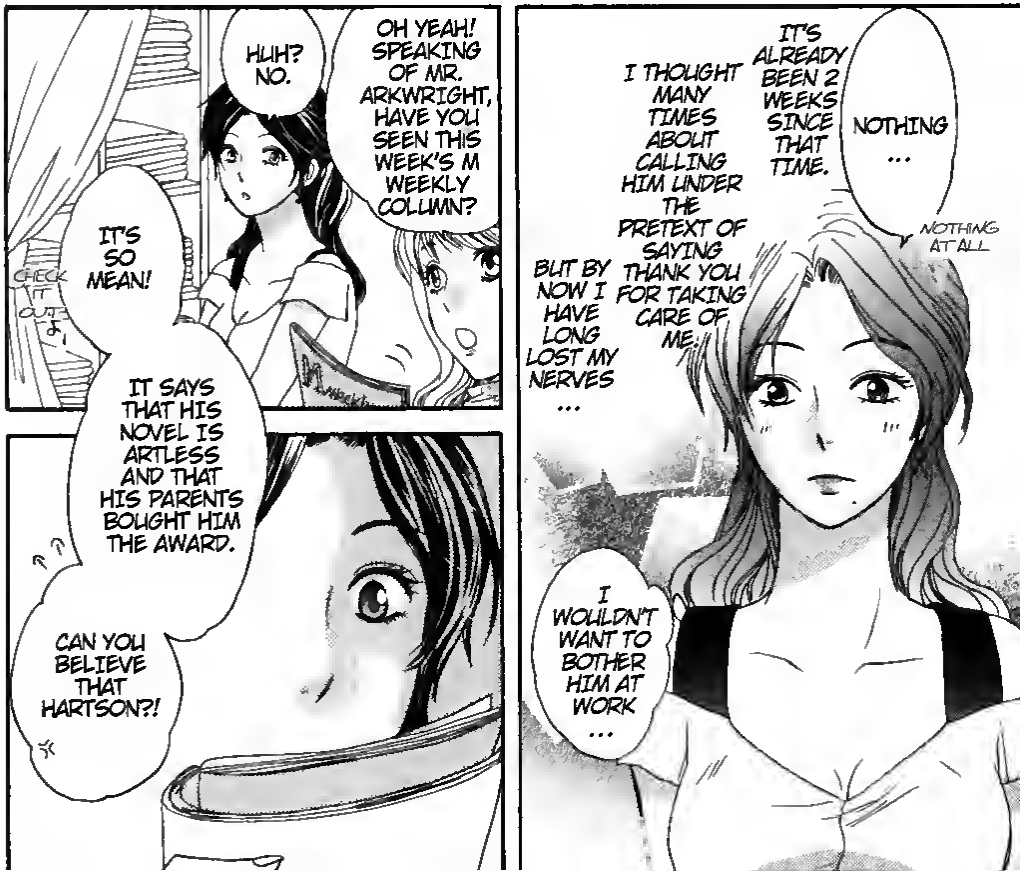
MERIEL?
KNOCK KNOCK
ARE YOU THERE?
BUT ...


I ...
WAS OF COURSE JOKING.
TEE HEE
HA HA HA
JUST KIDDING ...

WHAT IS IT?
CLARICE?
CLICK
CRYSTAL HOUSE? THIS YEAR'S?
THE NOVEL THAT WON THE CRYSTAL HOUSE NEWCOMER AWARD?
DO YOU THINK THE LIBRARY YOU WORK AT WOULD HAVE ...
IF YOU MEAN TREVOR ARKWRIGHT'S "INFILTRATION" THEN I ACTUALLY HAVE IT HERE BUT ...
YOU REALLY WANT TO READ IT?
YOU, CLARICE?!
IS THAT WRONG?
I JUST THINK IT'S UNUSUAL THAT YOU'D BE INTERESTED IN THIS TYPE OF BOOK ...
NO
WAIT HERE
RUFFLE RUFFLE
YOU MEAN IT'S VERY DIFFICULT ...?
I LOVED IT.
IT'S NOT GRANDIOSE OR ANYTHING BUT THE WORDS REALLY STAY WITH YOU.
HMM ...
DID YOU LIKE IT, MERIEL?
SOUNDS PRETTY DIFFICULT
ALSO ...
THIS IS JUST MY PERSONAL IMPRESSION BUT ...
I WOULDN'T SAY SO. THE STYLE IS VERY MEASURED AND REFINED ...
BUT THERE ARE NO HEART-POUNDING MOMENTS IN IT LIKE IN YOUR FAVORITE DETECTIVE STORIES AND SUSPENSE NOVELS ...
YOU COULD SAY IT'S LYRICAL AND ... ARTISTIC?

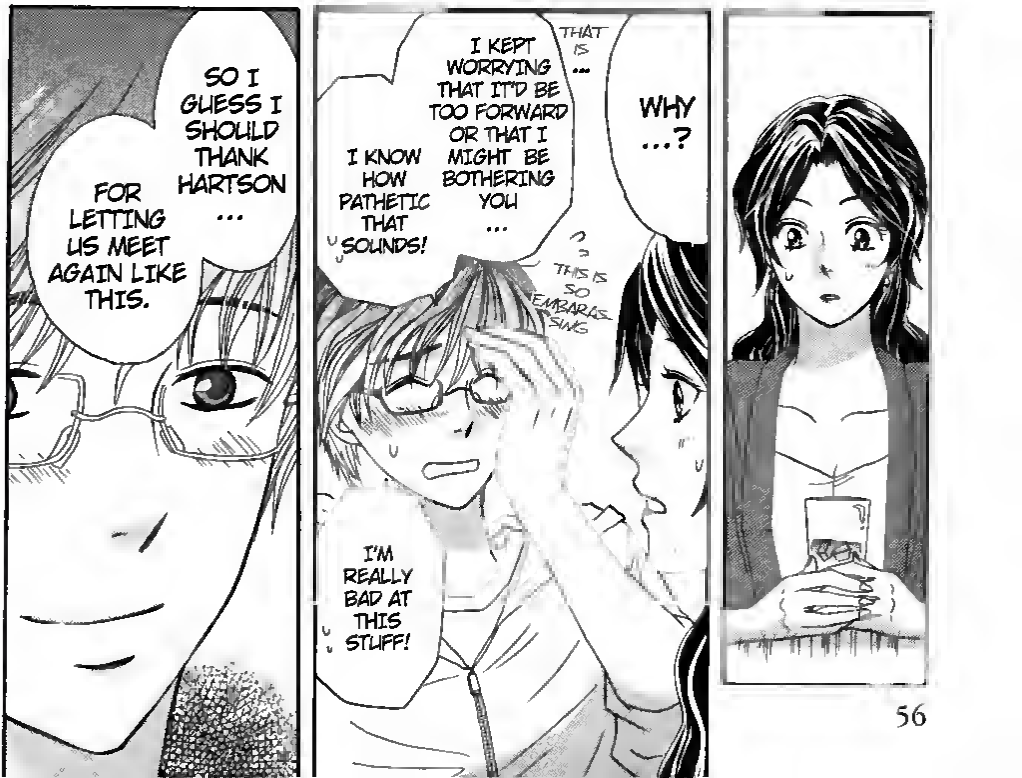

I FELT THAT THE AUTHOR ...
IS A VERY GENTLE AND KIND-HEARTED PERSON.
THAT WAS UNEXPECTED.
I NEVER HEARD TALK LIKE THAT FROM MERIEL ...
THE EXTREME BOOKWORM.
CLARICE ...?
CLARICE, HELLO?!

HUH?
COME ON.
I SAID: "YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO GO OUT FOR LUNCH?"
YOU'VE BEEN ABSENT-MINDED EVER SINCE THAT PARTY LAST MONTH.
WHAT?
ARE YOU STILL ANGRY THAT I LEFT YOU IN THE CARE OF MR. SECOND SON ...?
I'M ... NOT ANGRY ABOUT THAT ANYMORE.
BUT I COULDN'T LET SUCH A DREAMY GUY GET AWAY I'D NEVER GET ANOTHER CHANCE LIKE THAT
I KNOW, I KNOW.
OR MAYBE ... SOMETHING HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU AND HIM?


IT'S ALREADY BEEN 2 WEEKS SINCE THAT TIME.
NOTHING ...
I THOUGHT MANY TIMES ABOUT CALLING HIM UNDER THE PRETEXT OF SAYING THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF ME.
NOTHING AT ALL
BUT BY NOW I HAVE LONG LOST MY NERVES ...
I WOULDN'T WANT TO BOTHER HIM AT WORK ...
OH YEAH! SPEAKING OF MR. ARKWRIGHT, HAVE YOU SEEN THIS WEEK'S M WEEKLY COLUMN?
HUH? NO.
CHECK IT OUT ♪
IT'S SO MEAN!
IT SAYS THAT HIS NOVEL IS ARTLESS AND THAT HIS PARENTS BOUGHT HIM THE AWARD.
CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT HARTSON?!

HARTSON ...
W-WHAT ... IS THIS ...?!
HOT!
JIMMY HARTSON'S SPICY COLUMN
CRYSTAL HOUSE PRESENTS THIS YEAR'S NEWCOMER AWARD!! OR WAS IT THE NEPOTISM AWARD?!
TREVOR ARKWRIGHT, THE RECIPIENT OF THE AWARD AND AUTHOR OF "INFILTRATION," IS ALSO THE SON OF BISHOP GARY ARKWRIGHT!
PUBLISHING'S PRESIDENT, GARY ARKWRIGHT!
WERE THE JUDGES BOUGHT OFF WITH LARGE SUMS OF MONEY?!
YOU'RE GOING TO PAY ...!
SO ...
HAAH HAAH PANT
YOU CAME TO SEE ME BECAUSE YOU WERE WORRIED?

I'M HAPPY YOU CAME THOUGH!
I ALSO THOUGHT MANY TIMES ABOUT CALLING YOU BUT ...
BY NOW I'VE ALREADY LOST MY NERVES ...
CLANK ...
I WOULDN'T HAVE TO IF YOU JUST ANSWERED YOUR PHONE!
I RUSHED HERE IN A TAXI AS SOON AS I GOT OFF WORK!
AH!
SORRY! I LEFT MY CELL AT HOME!
I WAS JUST COMING BACK ...


SO I GUESS I SHOULD THANK HARTSON ...
FOR LETTING US MEET AGAIN LIKE THIS.
I KNOW HOW PATHETIC THAT SOUNDS!
I KEPT WORRYING THAT IT'D BE TOO FORWARD OR THAT I MIGHT BE BOTHERING YOU ...
THAT IS ...
WHY ...?
THIS IS SO EMBARRASSING
I'M REALLY BAD AT THIS STUFF!

I ...
I TOO ... WANTED TO SEE YOU BUT ...

I'M NOT WORRIED. ACTUALLY, I WAS EXPECTING THIS.
WHAT WORRIES ME IS HOW ANGRY YOU ARE BECAUSE OF SOMETHING THAT'S HAPPENED TO ME.
HA HA

I WON'T THANK HARTSON AS LONG AS I LIVE...!
I ACTUALLY THOUGHT OF WAYS OF KILLING HIM ...
CRUMPLE CRUMPLE

I CAN'T JUST LET IT SLIDE ...
BUT ...
THAT WAS SUCH A CRUEL ARTICLE ...

I MIGHT NOT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT PATHOS OR LITERATURE BUT ...
I UNDER-STAND WHY YOUR BOOK HAS TOUCHED THE HEARTS OF SO MANY PEOPLE.
CLARICE ...
YOUR WORK DESERVES THE PRAISE IT GETS!
YOU SHOULD PUBLICALLY PROTEST HARTSON'S AND HIS PUBLISHER'S ACCUSA-TIONS!
CLATTER
EVEN ...
EVEN MERIEL, WHO USUALLY DOESN'T PRAISE ANYTHING ...
SAID THAT YOUR WORK ...
CLARICE ...

BUT, REALLY, IT'S OK.
THANK YOU.

YOU'RE SUCH A...
WEAKLING!
TREVOR, YOU...
DUMMY!

SOMEONE WRITES THESE HORRIBLE THINGS ABOUT HIM AND HE JUST TAKES IT?
WHY?!
THAT'S NOT GENTLENESS. THAT'S JUST COWARDICE!
CLARICE!
WAI ...!
RUSH
WEAKLING

TREVOR GETS MOCKED ...
AND I'M THE ONE WHO'S MOST ANGRY ABOUT IT.
WHICH ITSELF MAKES ME EVEN MORE ANGRY ...!
CREEEEEAK
PIPE DOWN SHARO ...
CLARICE?
WHAT HAP-PENED?

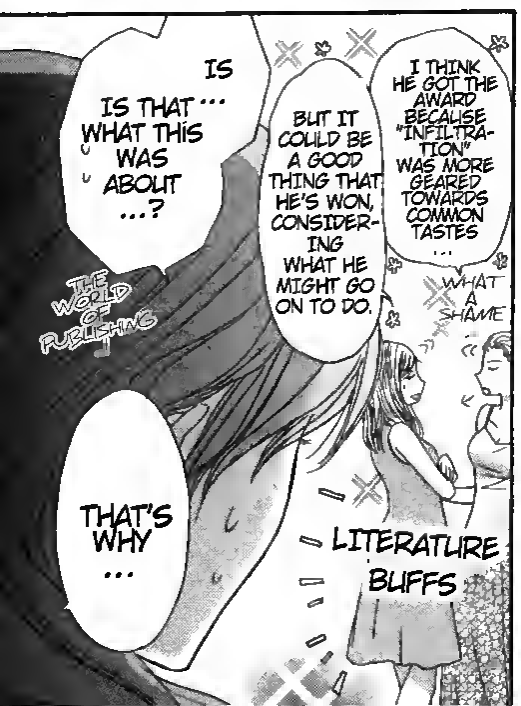
I GET IT ...

I REALLY DO.

IT'S ME I SHOULD FEEL SORRY FOR.

STEALTHY
TREVOR, TREVOR ...
GOOD. HIS MOTHER HAS HIM SURROUNDED ...
THANK GOD ...
I WON'T FORGIVE HIM UNTIL HE DOES SOMETHING ABOUT THAT ARTICLE ...
MUTTER MUTTER
BUT SHE DID COME TO THE PARTY
OH YEAH.
HUH?
HAVE YOU SEEN THAT COLUMN?
...?!
COLUMN?!
THUMP
OHH, THE ONE BY HARTSON?
YES.
THE "NEPOTISM," ONE, RIGHT? I SAW IT, I SAW IT.

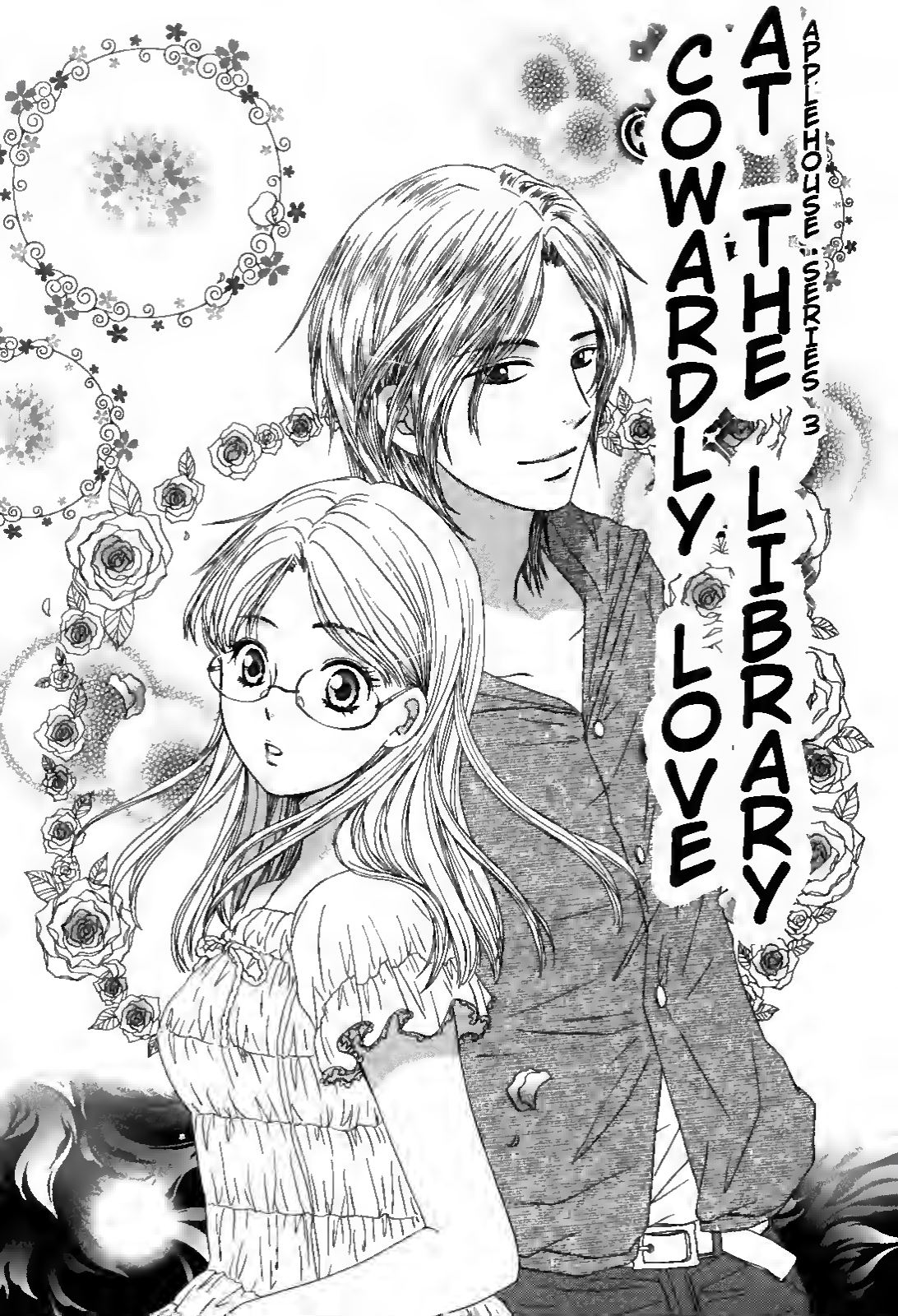
HOW STUPID CAN HARTSON GET?
IF THE REWARD WAS FOR SALE ...
HAAH.
YEAH, YEAH
ARKWRIGHT WOULD HAVE ALREADY GOTTEN IT DURING THESE PAST 10 YEARS!
A HA HA HA
THINK BEFORE WRITING A REVIEW LIKE THAT!


IS IS THAT ... WHAT THIS WAS ABOUT ...?
THE WORLD OF PUBLISHING
THAT'S WHY ...
BUT IT COULD BE A GOOD THING THAT HE'S WON, CONSIDERING WHAT HE MIGHT GO ON TO DO.
I THINK HE GOT THE AWARD BECAUSE "INFILTRATION" WAS MORE GEARED TOWARDS COMMON TASTES ...
WHAT A SHAME
LITERATURE BUFFS

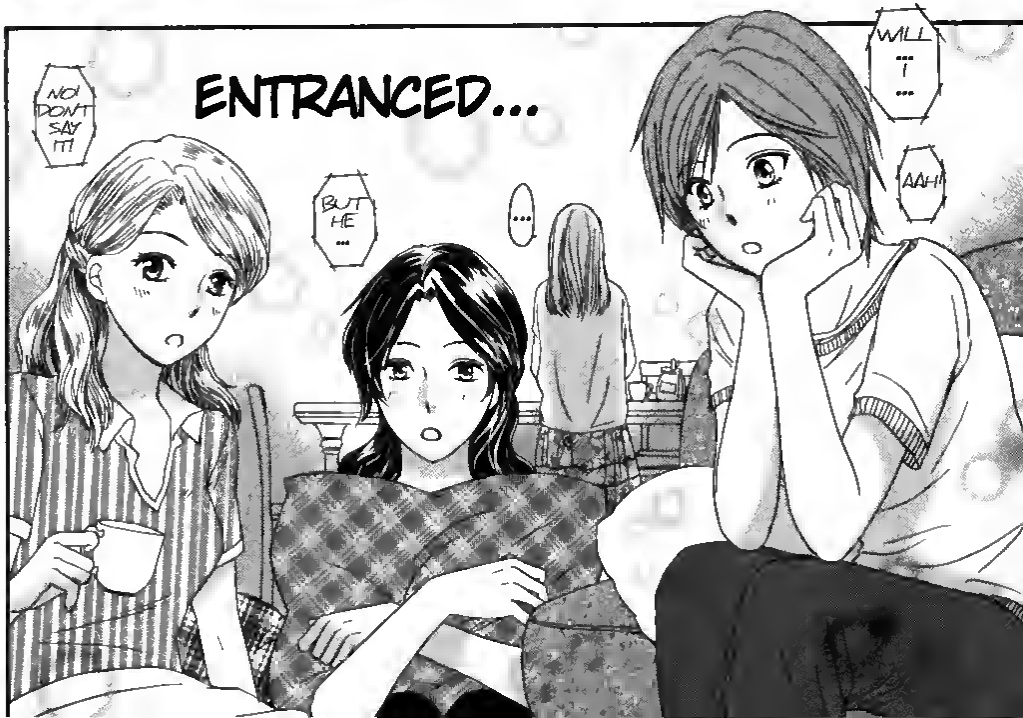
I HEARD THAT THIS YEAR THERE WERE SOME OF ARKWRIGHT'S DIEHARD FANS IN THE COMMITTEE.
OH! I HEARD ABOUT THAT!
THE FACT THAT HIS BOOKS HAVE BEEN SELLING QUIETLY UNDER EVERYONE'S NOSES SEEMS TO APPEAL TO THE LITERATURE BUFFS.
IT'S OBVIOUS THAT TREVOR ARKWRIGHT'S BIGGEST SELLING POINT IS THAT HE'S STILL A MINOR WRITER.
WHA..?
...

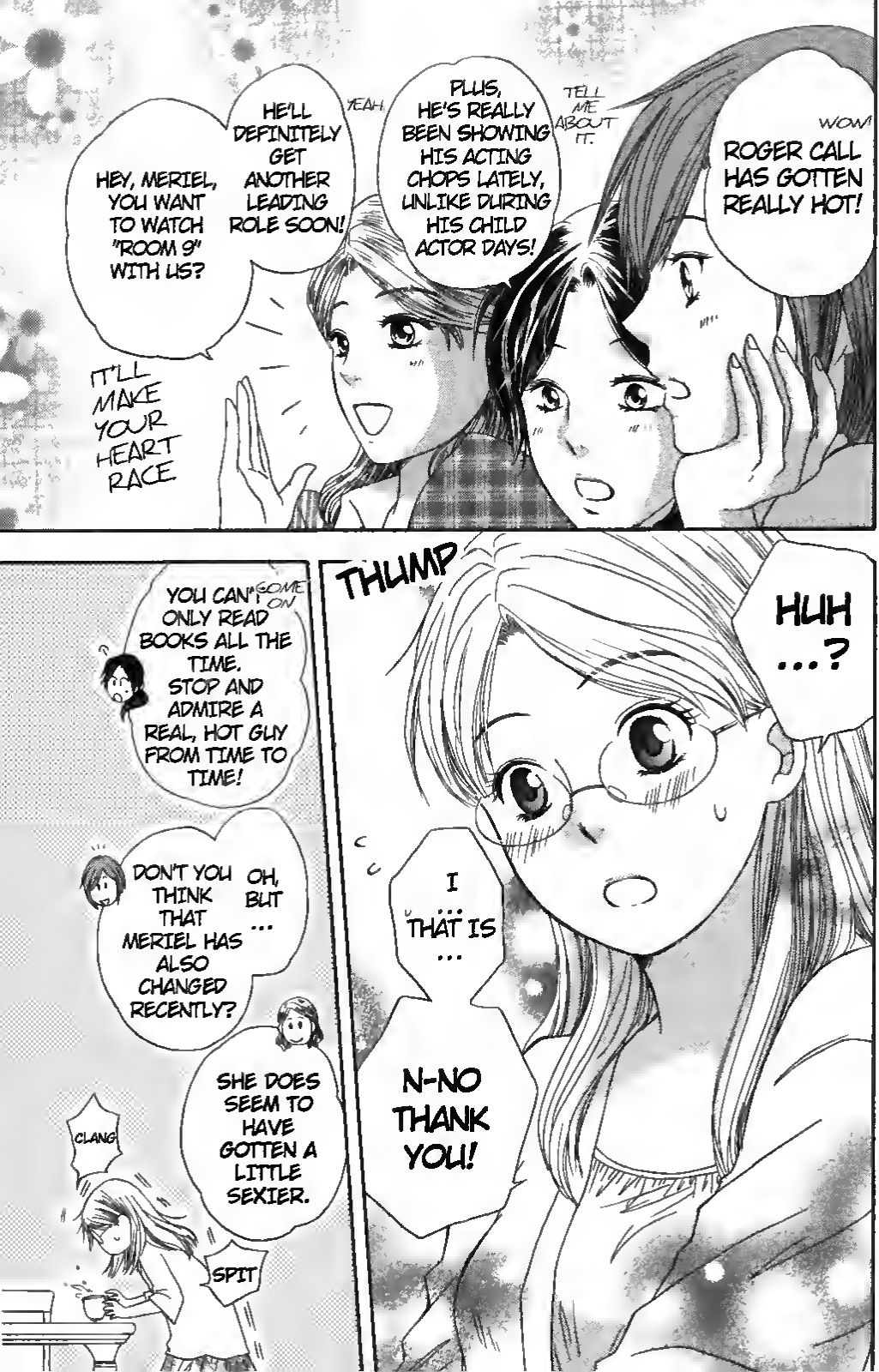
I SAID I'M GRATEFUL TO HARTSON.
!
TREVOR!

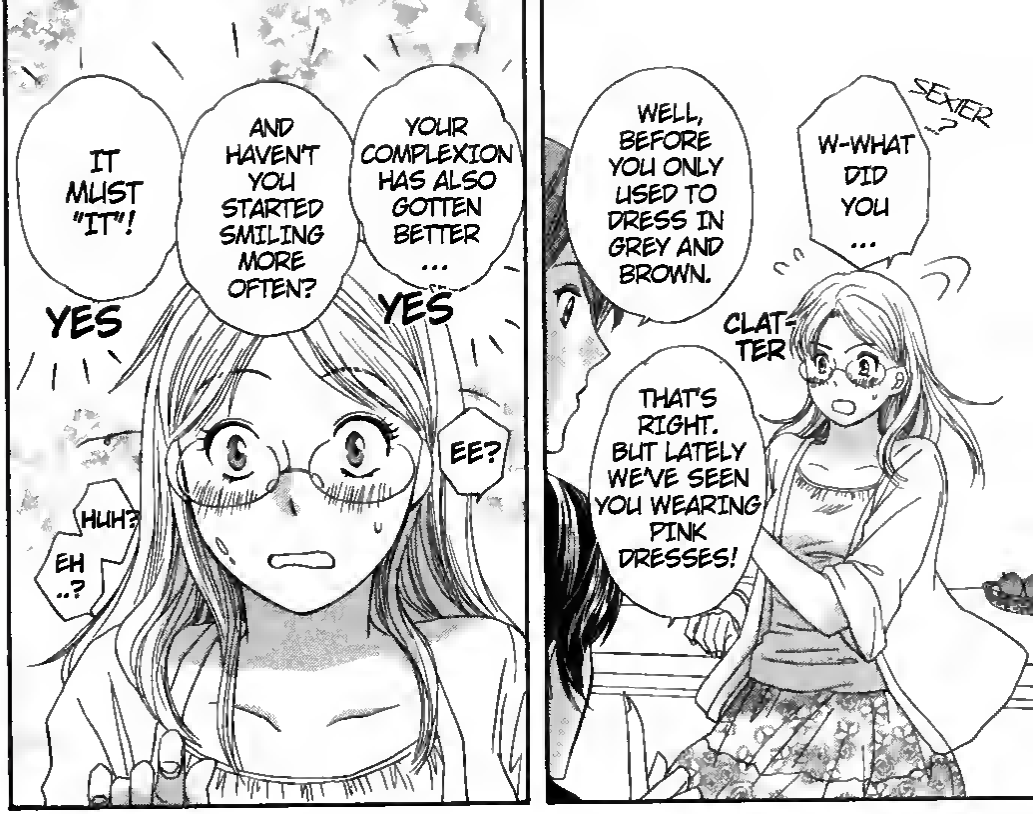
I WANTED TO BUT ...
I WAS TOO ASHAMED TO SAY ANYTHING ...
BECAUSE OF ALL THAT "MINOR WRITER" STUFF -
... !
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SOMETHING EARLIER?!
THE MORNING I MET A GODDESS - END

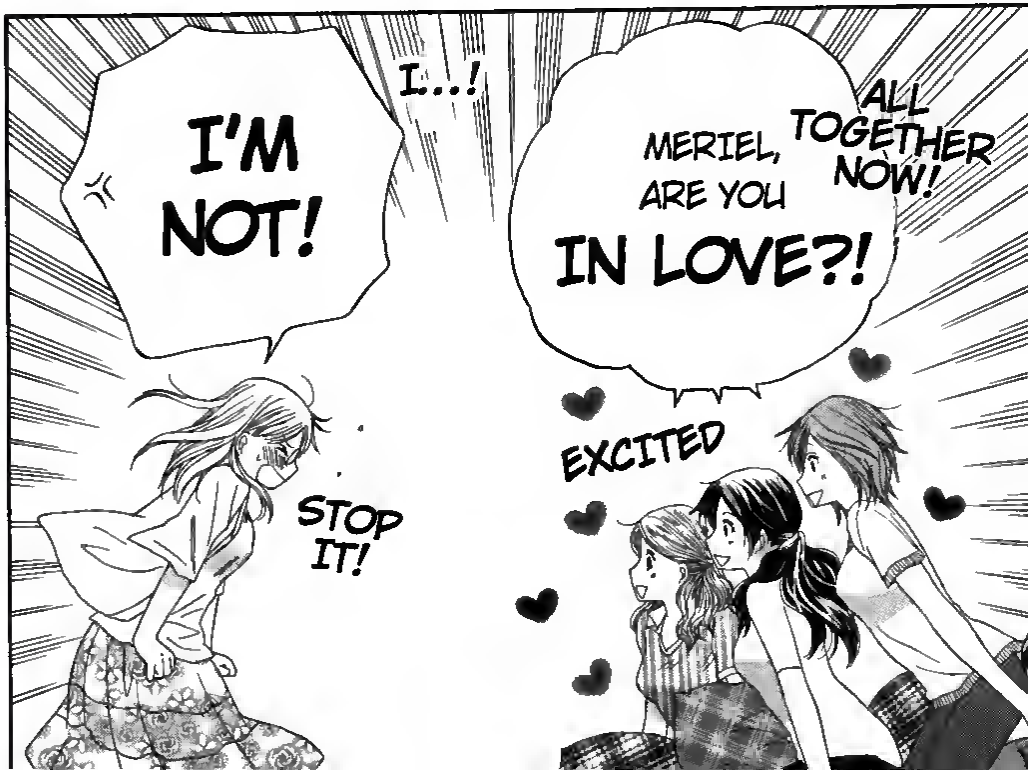

APPLEHOUSE SERIES 3
AT THE LIBRARY
COWARDLY LOVE

DON'T EVER LEAVE ME AGAIN.
STAY BY MY SIDE FOREVER.


ENTRANCED...
NO! DON'T SAY IT!
BUT HE...
...
WILL ... I ...
AAH!


HEY, MERIEL, YOU WANT TO WATCH "ROOM 9" WITH US?
HE'LL DEFINITELY GET ANOTHER LEADING ROLE SOON!
YEAH.
PLUS, HE'S REALLY BEEN SHOWING HIS ACTING CHOPS LATELY, UNLIKE DURING HIS CHILD ACTOR DAYS!
TELL ME ABOUT IT.
WOW!
ROGER CALL HAS GOTTEN REALLY HOT!
IT'LL MAKE YOUR HEART RACE
THUMP
HUH ...?
I ... THAT IS ...
N-NO THANK YOU!
COME ON
YOU CAN'T ONLY READ BOOKS ALL THE TIME. STOP AND ADMIRE A REAL, HOT GUY FROM TIME TO TIME!
OH, BUT ...
DON'T YOU THINK THAT MERIEL HAS ALSO CHANGED RECENTLY?
SHE DOES SEEM TO HAVE GOTTEN A LITTLE SEXIER.
CLANG
SPIT

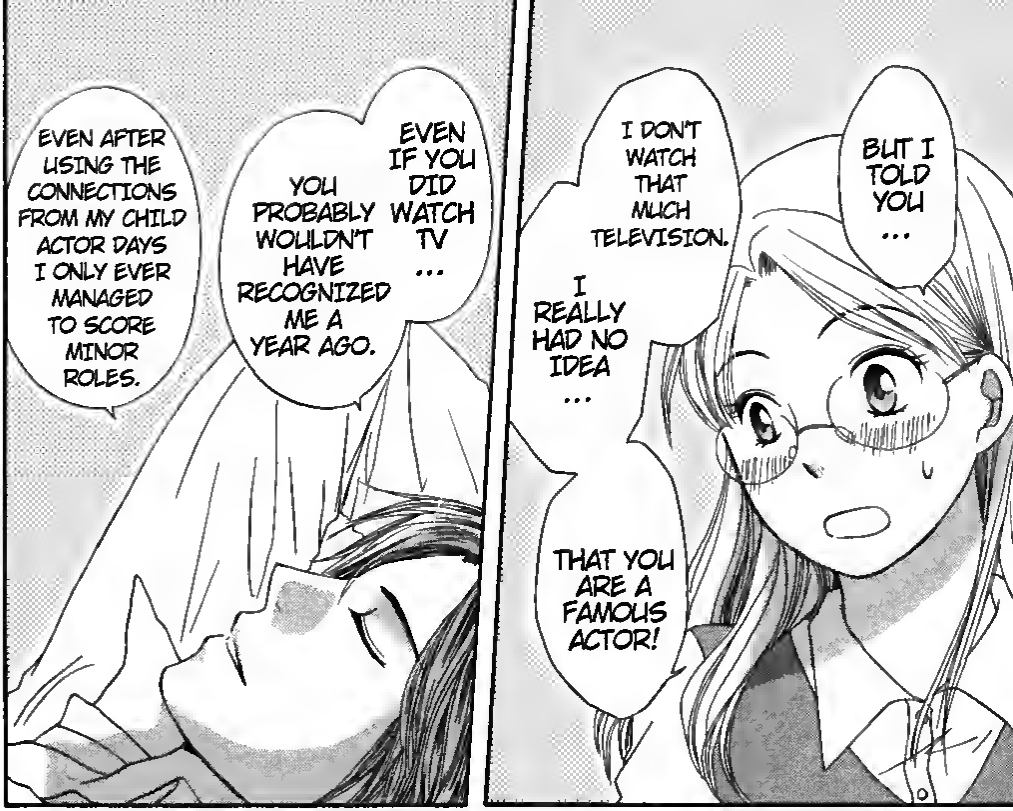

IT MUST "IT"!
AND HAVEN'T YOU STARTED SMILING MORE OFTEN?
YOUR COMPLEXION HAS ALSO GOTTEN BETTER ...
YES
YES
EE?
HUH?
EH ..?
WELL, BEFORE YOU ONLY USED TO DRESS IN GREY AND BROWN.
W-WHAT DID YOU ...
SEXIER ~?
CLAT-TER
THAT'S RIGHT. BUT LATELY WE'VE SEEN YOU WEARING PINK DRESSES!

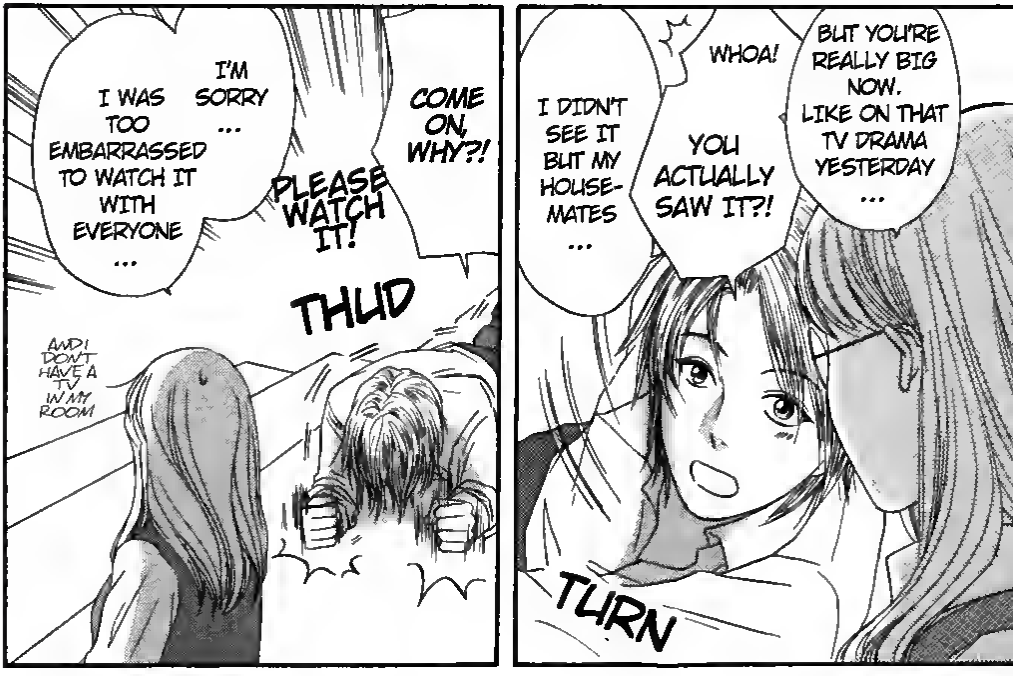

I...!
I'M NOT!
STOP IT!
MERIEL, ARE YOU IN LOVE?!
ALL TOGETHER NOW!
EXCITED

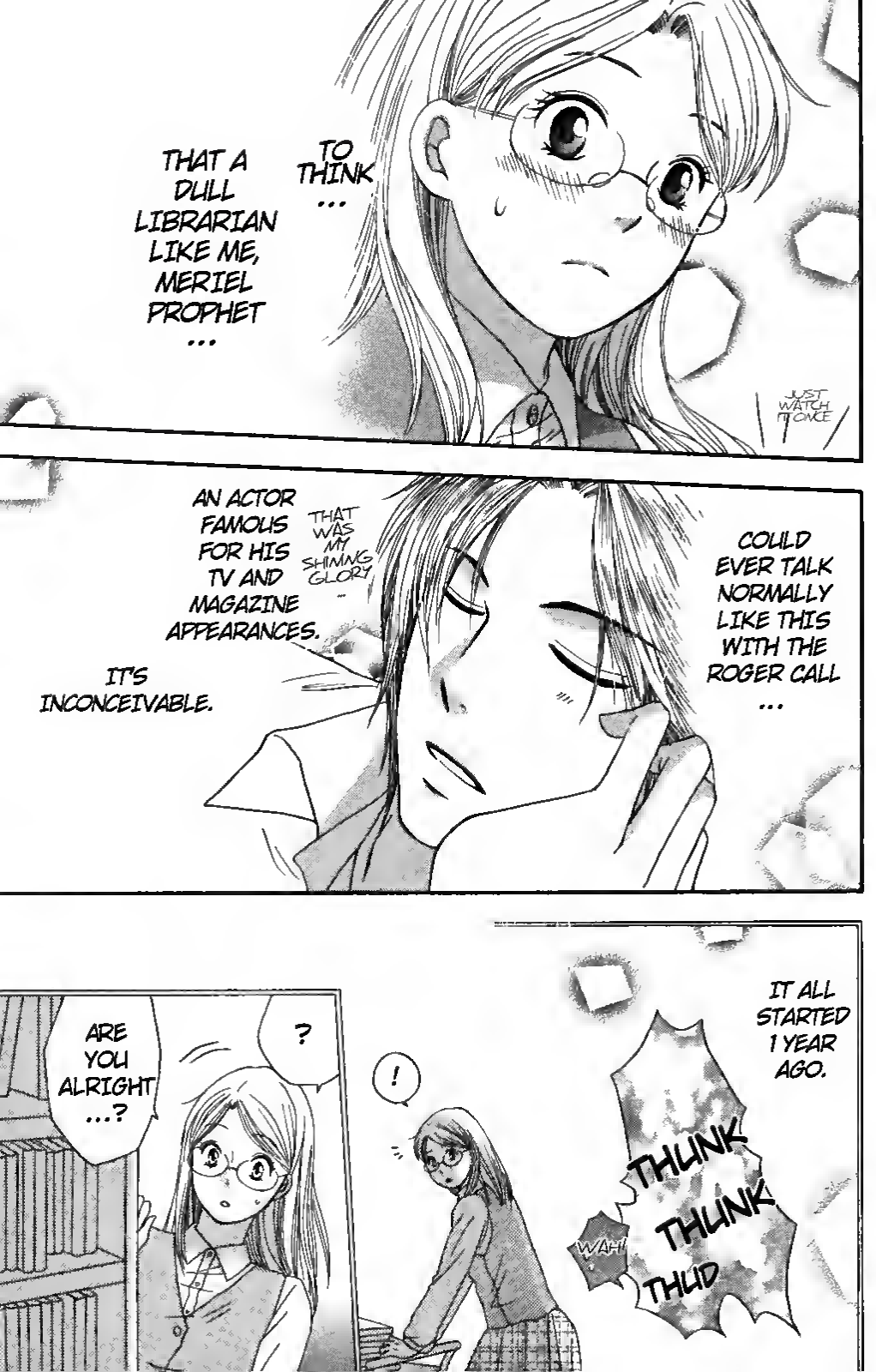
I ...
I WOULD FEEL SORRY FOR ANYONE UNLUCKY ENOUGH TO BE L-LOVED BY ...
AN UGLY PIG LIKE ME!
I AM WELL AWARE OF HOW I LOOK!
WAS THAT ...
I THINK IT WAS
BINGO!
AH ..
MERIEL!
DON'T GO!
CALL ME WHEN IT'S MY TURN TO USE THE BATH!
SEE YOU!
DASH
I ...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THOSE THREE ....!
BLUSH
THE NEIGHBORS WILL COMPLAIN ...
WE'RE DYING TO KNOOOOW...!
TELL US MORE!
WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS HE?!
YAAAA!
WAIT, MERIEL!
TELL US MORE!

A PERSON LIKE ME ...
IN LOVE ...?
WOW.
YOU DON'T OFTEN SEE BOARDING HOUSES ANYMORE.
THAT'S RIGHT. OUR LANDLADY IS VERY YOUNG SO IT FEELS MORE LIKE A FEMALE DORMITORY THAN A BOARDING HOUSE.
IS LIVING WITH 3 OTHER WOMEN FUN?
IT IS! EVERYONE THERE IS SO UNIQUE AND INTERESTING.
WE ALL COME FROM COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WORLDS AND NORMALLY WOULD NEVER CROSS PATHS ...
THAT'S WHY, AND THIS IS SOMETHING I WOULD NEVER TELL THEM ...
I'M VERY HAPPY THAT WE COULD ALL MEET THERE.
HMMM ...

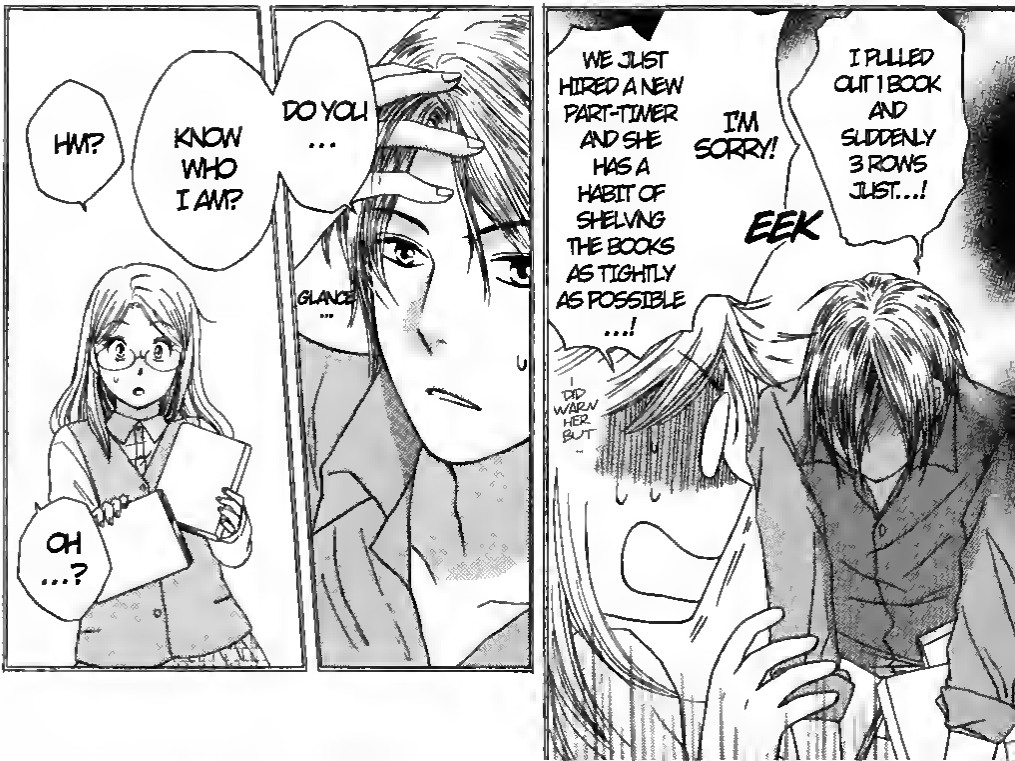
WHAT ABOUT ME?
LOVE
THEN
ARE YOU ALSO HAPPY THAT YOU GOT TO MEET ...
"ROGER CALL"?
I CAN NEVER ALLOW IT.
NOT WITH THIS PERSON.


BUT I TOLD YOU ...
I DON'T WATCH THAT MUCH TELEVISION.
I REALLY HAD NO IDEA ...
THAT YOU ARE A FAMOUS ACTOR!
EVEN IF YOU DID WATCH TV ...
YOU PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE RECOGNIZED ME A YEAR AGO.
EVEN AFTER USING THE CONNECTIONS FROM MY CHILD ACTOR DAYS I ONLY EVER MANAGED TO SCORE MINOR ROLES.


BUT YOU'RE REALLY BIG NOW. LIKE ON THAT TV DRAMA YESTERDAY ...
WHOA!
YOU ACTUALLY SAW IT?!
I DIDN'T SEE IT BUT MY HOUSE-MATES ...
TURN
COME ON, WHY?!
I'M SORRY ...
I WAS TOO EMBARRASSED TO WATCH IT WITH EVERYONE ...
PLEASE WATCH IT!
THUD
AND I DON'T HAVE A TV IN MY ROOM

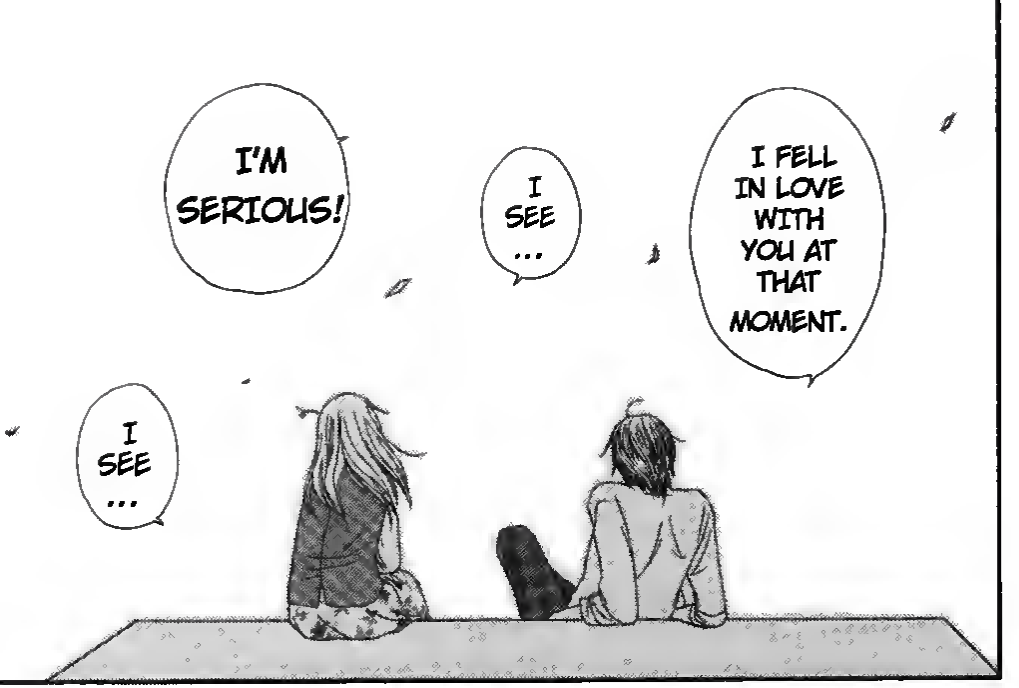

TO THINK ...
THAT A DULL LIBRARIAN LIKE ME, MERIEL PROPHET ...
JUST WATCH IT ONCE
AN ACTOR FAMOUS FOR HIS TV AND MAGAZINE APPEARANCES.
THAT WAS MY SHINING GLORY ...
IT'S INCONCEIVABLE.
COULD EVER TALK NORMALLY LIKE THIS WITH THE ROGER CALL ...
IT ALL STARTED 1 YEAR AGO.
THUNK
THUNK
THUD
WAH!
!
?
ARE YOU ALRIGHT ...?

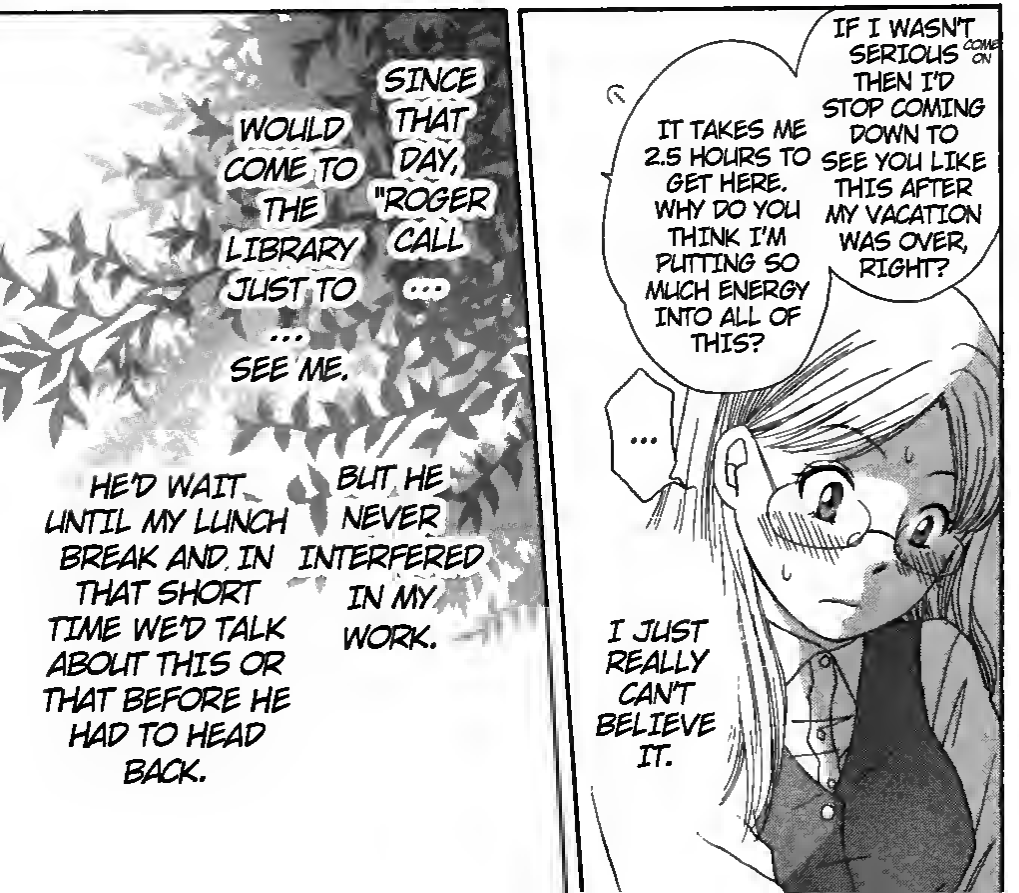
HANG ON!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
UGH
I..
WOBBLE
...
DANGLE
EEE EK!

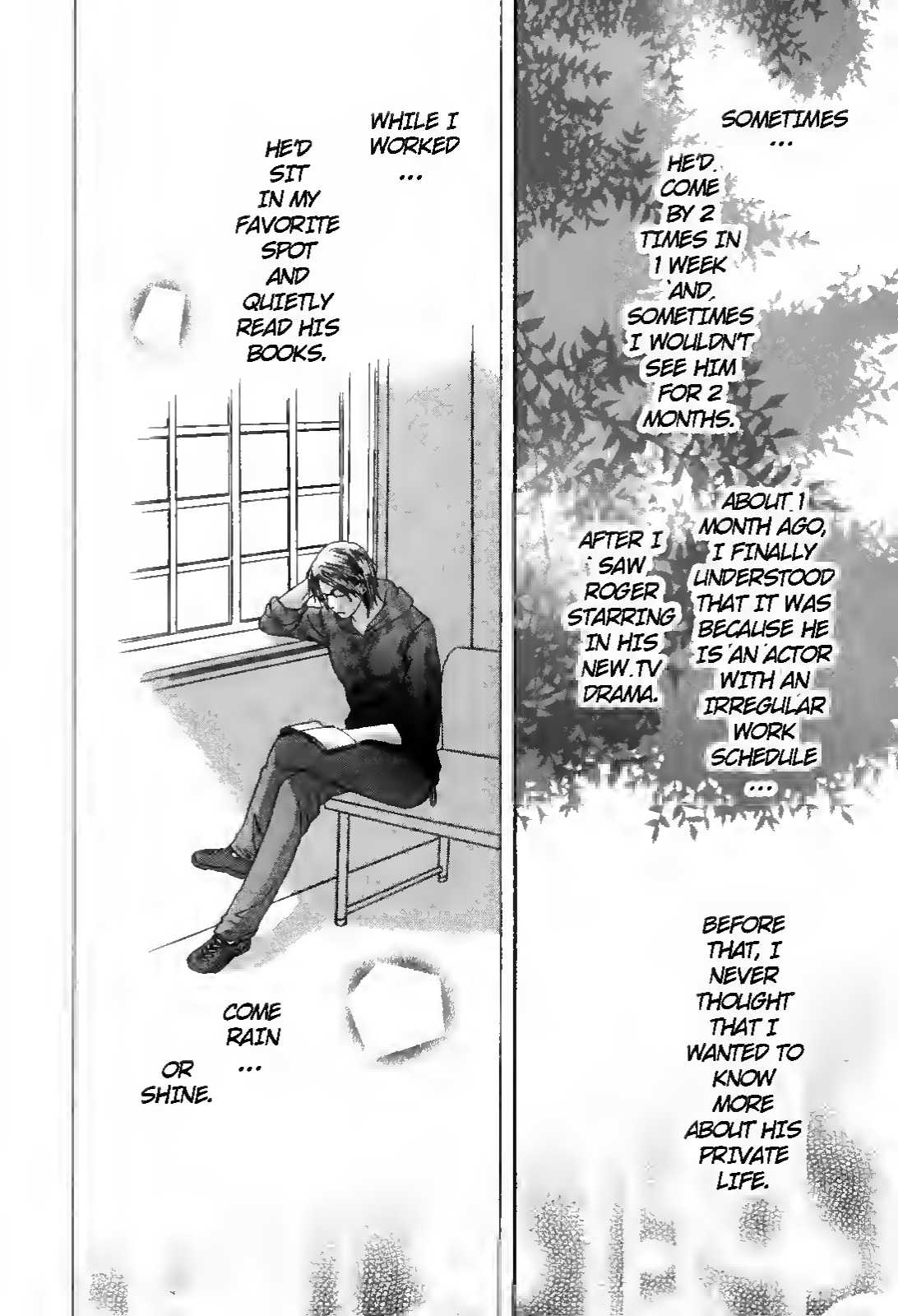

HM?
KNOW WHO I AM?
DO YOU ...
GLANCE
OH ...?
I'M SORRY!
I PULLED OUT 1 BOOK AND SUDDENLY 3 ROWS JUST...!
EEK
WE JUST HIRED A NEW PART-TIMER AND SHE HAS A HABIT OF SHELVING THE BOOKS AS TIGHTLY AS POSSIBLE ...!
I DID WARN HER BUT ...

EEK!
ALRIGHT ...
SEEMS THAT COMING TO THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN WAS A GOOD IDEA.
ARE YOU ON THE RUN FROM THE LAW ...?!
WRONG.
ARE YOU STUPID?
AA!
FLAP
FLAP
UP WE GO!
AH!
ARE YOU MR. WILDES' OLDER BROTHER ...?
WRONG.
FROM 3RD STREET?
I'M JUST A NORMAL TOURIST ...
WHO WANTED TO GO TO AN UNKNOWN PLACE BECAUSE HE GOT SICK OF WORK.
SINCE I WASN'T DOING ANYTHING, I THOUGHT I'D READ A BOOK ...
THEN, THIS HAPPENED.
JUST MY LUCK
I SEE ...
I'M SORRY ...
SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED ...
YOU MUST THINK ...
THAT IT'S EMBARRASSING FOR AN ADULT TO RUN AWAY FROM WORK, RIGHT?
DON'T WORRY, EVEN I THINK THAT.
NOT AT ALL.

WELCOME TO THE NORTH LINTON LIBRARY.
WHEN YOU GET TIRED OF SOMETHING ...
IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO GET AWAY FROM IT FOR A WHILE.
I AGREE WITH YOU ON THAT.


I'M SERIOUS!
I SEE ...
I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU AT THAT MOMENT.
I SEE ...


IF I WASN'T SERIOUS COME ON THEN I'D STOP COMING DOWN TO SEE YOU LIKE THIS AFTER MY VACATION WAS OVER, RIGHT?
IT TAKES ME 2.5 HOURS TO GET HERE. WHY DO YOU THINK I'M PUTTING SO MUCH ENERGY INTO ALL OF THIS?
...
I JUST REALLY CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
SINCE THAT DAY, "ROGER CALL ...
WOULD COME TO THE LIBRARY JUST TO ... SEE ME.
BUT HE NEVER INTERFERED IN MY WORK.
HE'D WAIT UNTIL MY LUNCH BREAK AND IN THAT SHORT TIME WE'D TALK ABOUT THIS OR THAT BEFORE HE HAD TO HEAD BACK.

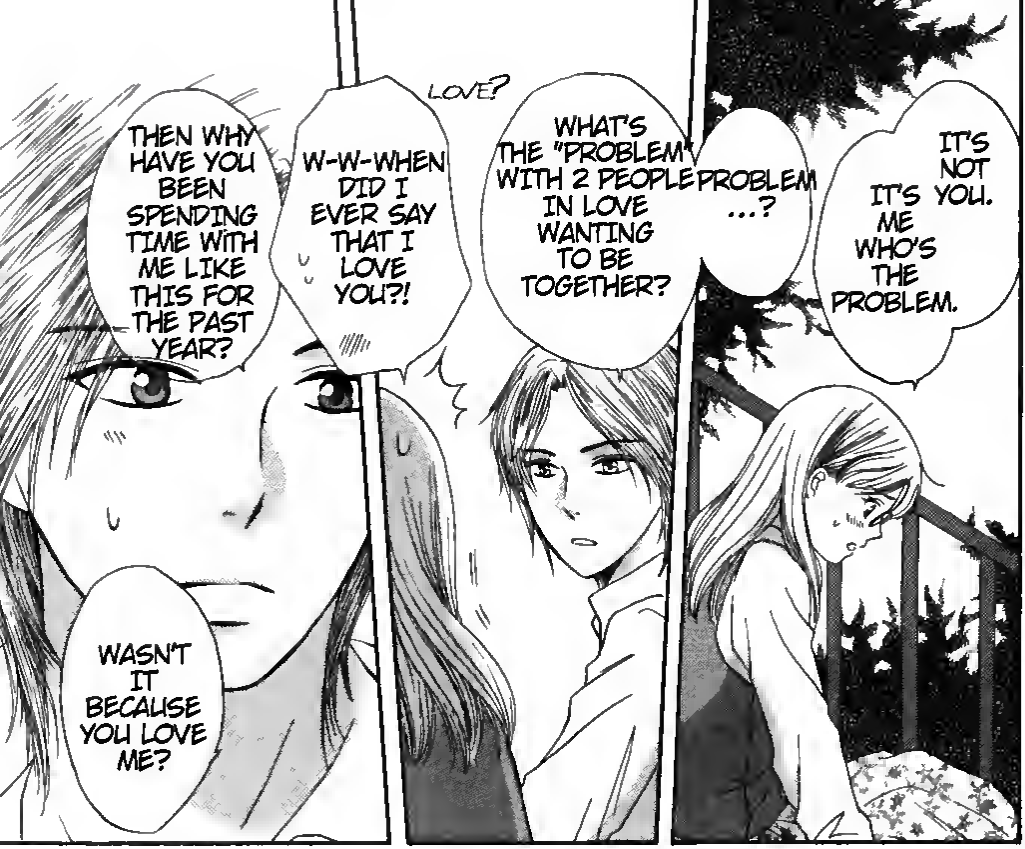

SOMETIMES ...
HE'D COME BY 2 TIMES IN 1 WEEK AND, SOMETIMES I WOULDN'T SEE HIM FOR 2 MONTHS.
ABOUT 1 MONTH AGO, I FINALLY UNDERSTOOD THAT IT WAS BECAUSE HE IS AN ACTOR WITH AN IRREGULAR WORK SCHEDULE ...
AFTER I SAW ROGER STARRING IN HIS NEW TV DRAMA.
BEFORE THAT, I NEVER THOUGHT THAT I WANTED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HIS PRIVATE LIFE.
WHILE I WORKED ...
HE'D SIT IN MY FAVORITE SPOT AND QUIETLY READ HIS BOOKS.
COME RAIN OR SHINE ...

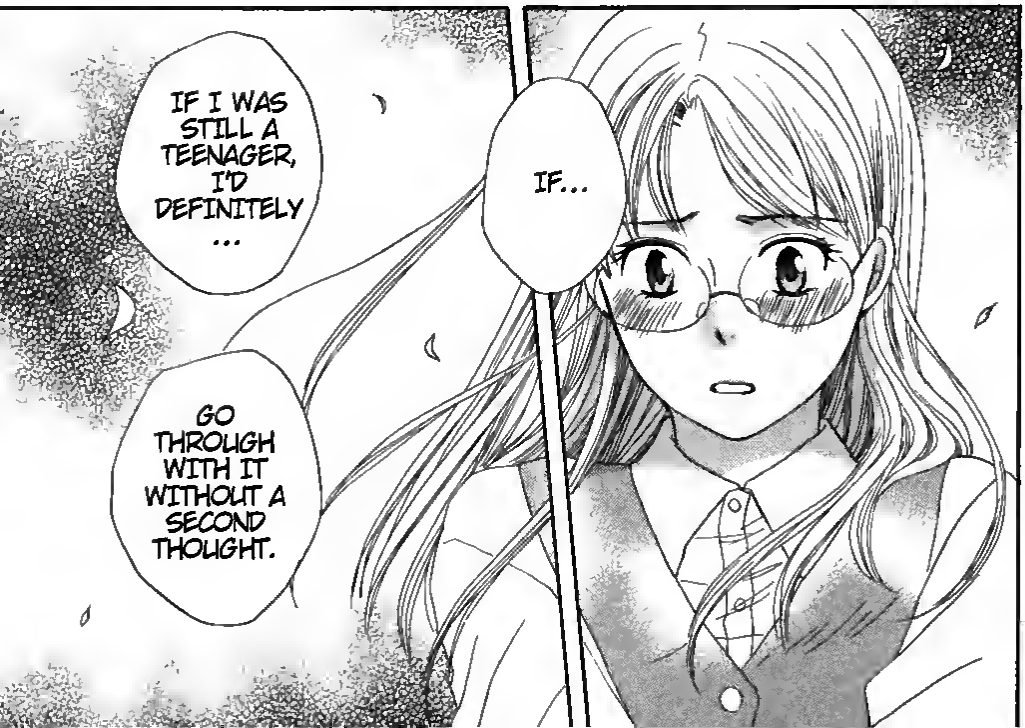
JUST WATCHING THAT BEAUTIFUL SCENE ...

WAS ...

ALL I EVER NEEDED.

SO EVEN BACK THEN I KNEW THAT ...
WE COME FROM 2 DIFFERENT WORLDS.
SO?
DID YOU HAVE TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT?
EH?
ABOUT MARRYING ME, THAT IS.
!
THUMP ...
I... ALREADY TOLD YOU THAT I CAN'T.
IT'S IMPOSSI-BLE!
THUMP THUMP
WHY?
"WHY"?! YOU'RE AN ACTOR AND I'M ...
SO IT'S ABOUT ME NOT HAVING A STEADY JOB?
BUT I'M NOT GOOD AT ANYTHING ELSE
THAT'S NOT IT!


THEN WHY HAVE YOU BEEN SPENDING TIME WITH ME LIKE THIS FOR THE PAST YEAR?
W-W-WHEN DID I EVER SAY THAT I LOVE YOU?!
LOVE?
WHAT'S THE "PROBLEM" WITH 2 PEOPLE IN LOVE WANTING TO BE TOGETHER?
PROBLEM ...?
IT'S NOT YOU. IT'S ME WHO'S THE PROBLEM.
WASN'T IT BECAUSE YOU LOVE ME?


IF I WAS STILL A TEENAGER, I'D DEFINITELY ...
IF...
GO THROUGH WITH IT WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT.

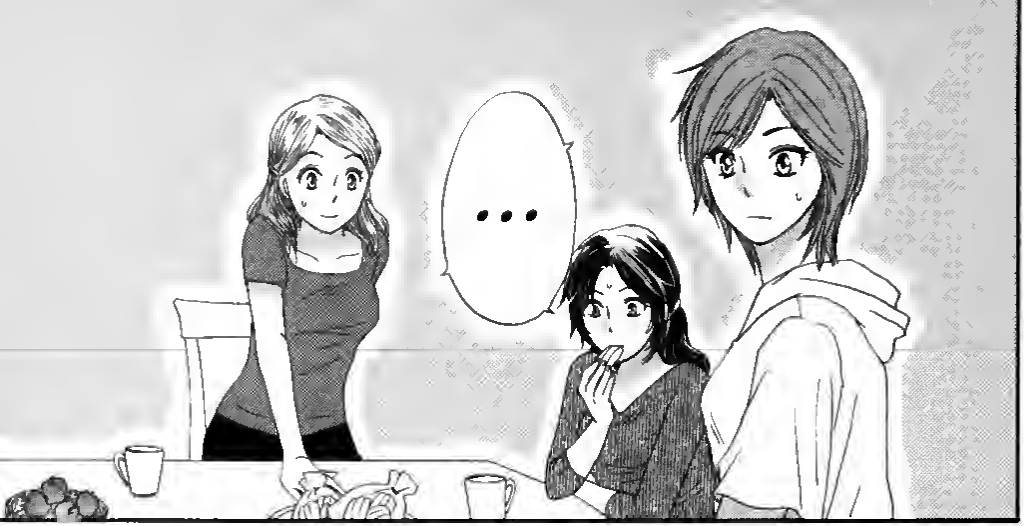
BUT ...
I NO LONGER HAVE ANY ILLUSIONS ABOUT WHAT KIND OF PERSON I AM AND WHAT EVERYONE ELSE WOULD THINK OF ME.
WHEN I TRY TO ANALYZE THE SITUATION AND IMAGINE THE FUTURE WE MIGHT HAVE ...
ALL I CAN SEE ...
ARE SCARY THINGS.

WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?
EVERYTHING ...
I'M NOT SURE I GET IT
T-
TRY TO BE MORE SPECIFIC ...
...
NOTHING ...
THAT'S THE CONCLUSION I CAME TO.
NOTHING ABOUT ME SEEMS APPROPRIATE FOR YOU.
THIS OVERT LISTLESSNESS OF MINE ...
HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY ARMOR.

I UNDERSTOOD ...
SOME OF THAT ...
SINCE I FIRST MET HIM ...
THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN PREPARED ...
BUT ...
DOES THAT MEAN THAT ONE DAY YOU MIGHT BECOME CONFIDENT ENOUGH ...
TO THINK YOU'RE APPROPRIATE FOR ME?
THAT SOMEDAY ...
SOMEONE WILL COME TO TELL ME THAT THIS HAS ALL BEEN JUST A DREAM.
COULD YOU TELL ME ...
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT ME RIGHT NOW?

DID THAT TIME ...

FINALLY ARRIVE?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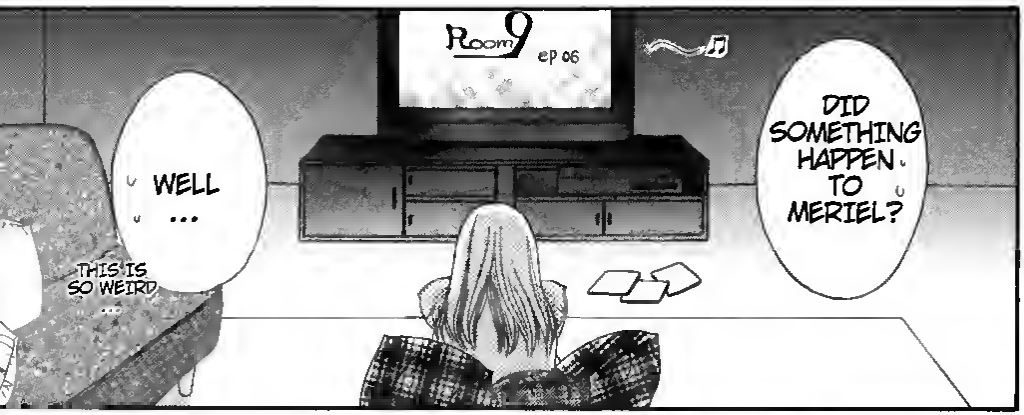
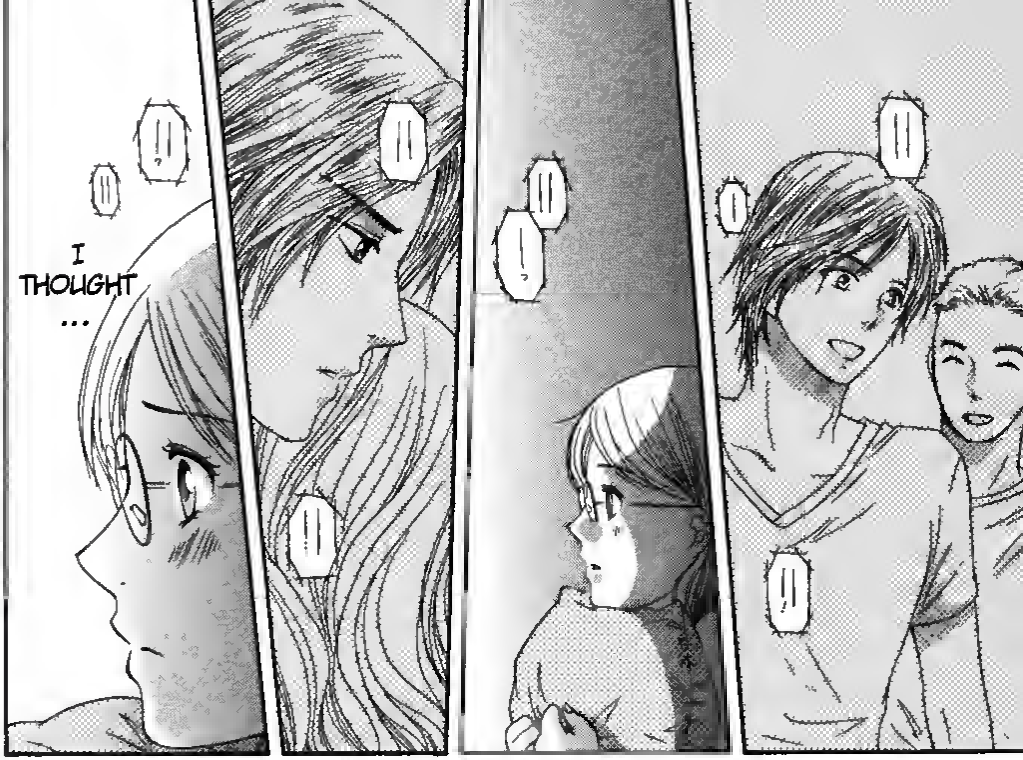

Room 9 ep 06
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO MERIEL?
WELL ...
THIS IS SO WEIRD ...

NOT REALLY
SHE'S BEEN MOPING AROUND IN HER ROOM EVER SINCE SHE GOT BACK ...
THEN SUDDENLY SHE ASKED TO BORROW MY RECORDINGS OF "ROOM 9" ...
AND SHE'S BEEN WATCHING IT LIKE THIS NONSTOP SINCE EPISODE #1


I THOUGHT ...

BECOME SCARED AND WANT TO RUN AWAY.
THAT IF I SAW HIM LIKE THIS I'D SURELY ...

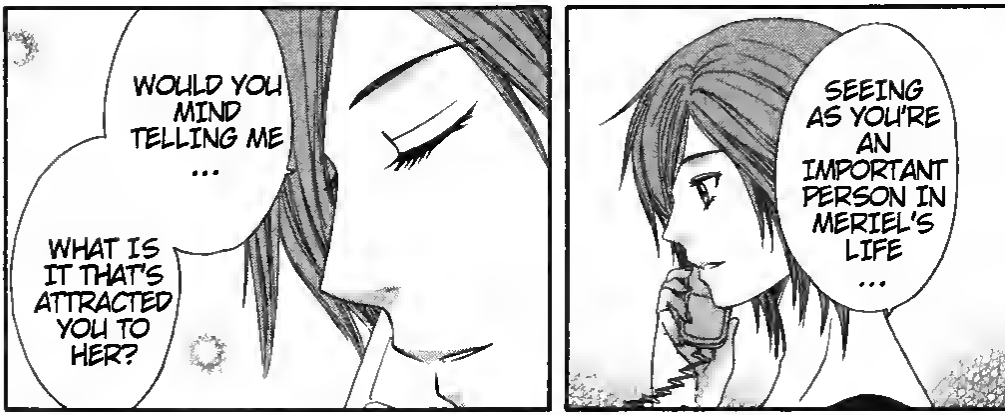
I ...
I WANT ... I...
CLARICE, JUDITH ...
SHARON ...
HM?
I NEED TO ASK YOU FOR A FAVOR.
BUT ...
BUT NOW ...
SQUEEZE
I...!
I WANT TO BECOME A GIRL SUITABLE FOR ROGER CALL!
PLEASE HELP ME!!

TOWARDS BECOMING SOMEONE APPROPRIATE FOR HIM.
I WANT TO TAKE A STEP...
YAAAAA!
ARE YOU A FAN?!
OF COURSE WE WILL!
BUT WHY?
PATTER
PATTER
PATTER
GO, GO, MERIEL!
STO...
PLEASE BE QUIET
S-STOP IT!
GO, GO, MERIEL!
SHH! SHH!

CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
...

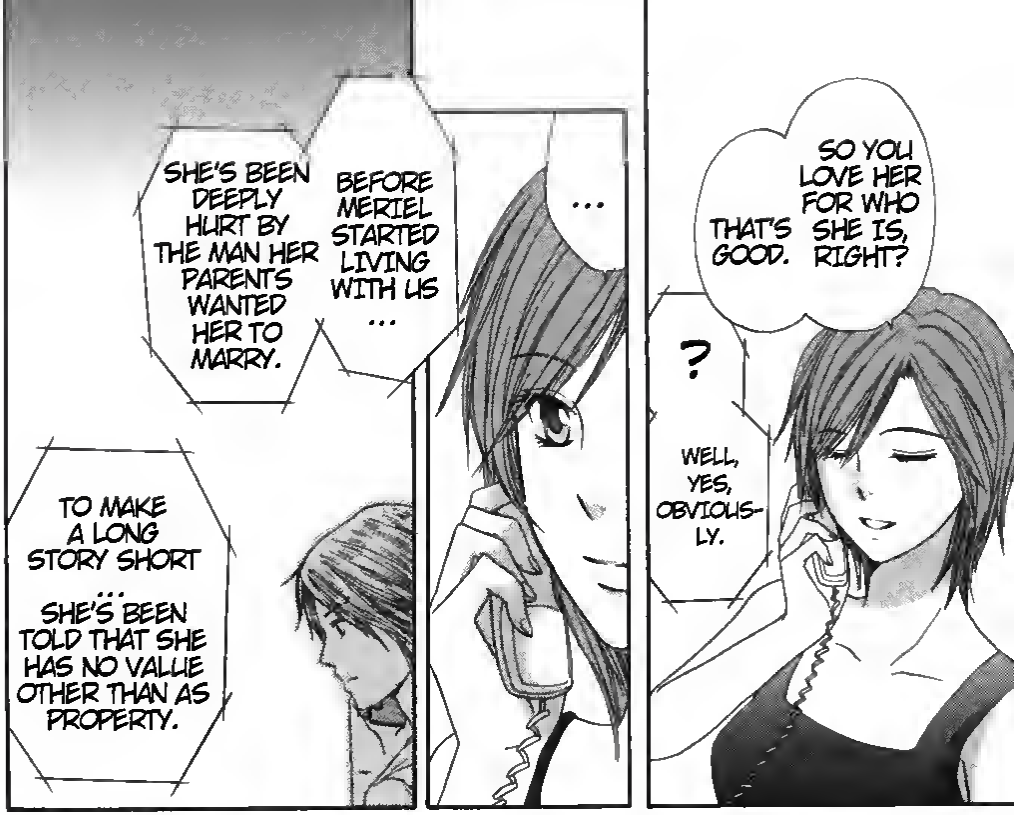
JUST WHEN I SIGNED A LONG-TERM DEAL WITH MY AGENCY ...
AND THOUGHT I COULD GO AND FACE HER WITH MY HEAD HELD HIGH ...
ROGER SEEMS TO BE DOWN
OH
IT MUST HAVE BEEN BECAUSE OF THE ACTING THING!
DID I MOVE TOO FAST?
NO, 1 YEAR IS ENOUGH FOR LOVE TO FLOURISH, RIGHT?!
THAT'S NOT TOO FAST, RIGHT?!
SHE'S JUST FROZEN IN PLACE
FREEZE
IN THE END... I COULDN'T GET AN ANSWER FROM HER.
HMMM
MERIEL?
SORRY, SHE'S OUT RIGHT NOW.
SHOULD I TELL HER TO CALL YOU BACK?
I SHOULD CALL T TELL MERIEL THAT IT WILL BE ANOTHER MONTH ...
BEFORE I CAN COME DOWN TO SEE HER AGAIN.
MERIEL PHONE (HOME)
BEEP
BEEP
OH
YEAH ...

I SEE... THAT'S OK. I'LL JUST CALL AGAIN LATER.
THANKS.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT A YOUNG GUY IS CALLING FOR MERIEL ...
COULD IT BE ...
SAY ...
ARE YOU BY ANY CHANCE ...
ROGER CALL?
H-HU U UH?!
THAT'S JUST WHAT WE CALL YOU HERE.
IT SEEMS MERIEL IS A BIG FAN OF HIM.
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
FLINCH
H-HUU UH?!
SERIOUSLY ...?
YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
CLATTER


SEEING AS YOU'RE AN IMPORTANT PERSON IN MERIEL'S LIFE ...
WOULD YOU MIND TELLING ME ...
WHAT IS IT THAT'S ATTRACTED YOU TO HER?

WHY ...?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.
SORRY IF I OFFENDED YOU
I'M JUST WORRIED ABOUT MERIEL.
WORRIED ...?
I ...

I JUST LOVE PICKING ON HER. IT'S SO FUN.
I CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF THAT SERIOUS FACE OF HERS.
I AGREE WITH YOU 100%.
EVERYONE HERE FEELS THE SAME
ALSO... I LIKE HOW QUIRKY SHE CAN BE ...
OR HOW SHE SUDDENLY INSERTS THOSE DIFFICULT PHRASES INTO HER DAILY CONVERSATIONS.
AND HOW SHE THINKS THAT IT'S PERFECTLY NORMAL.
HA HA
SHE HAS AN EXTREMELY LOW OPINION ON HERSELF BUT IS TOLERANT AND ACCEPTING TOWARDS OTHERS.
BEING WITH HER GIVES ME THIS WARM FEELING.
I ALSO ABSOLUTELY LOVE IT THAT SHE'S A LITTLE CHUBBY!!
IT'S CUTE
YOU'RE REALLY FAR GONE
I GET THAT

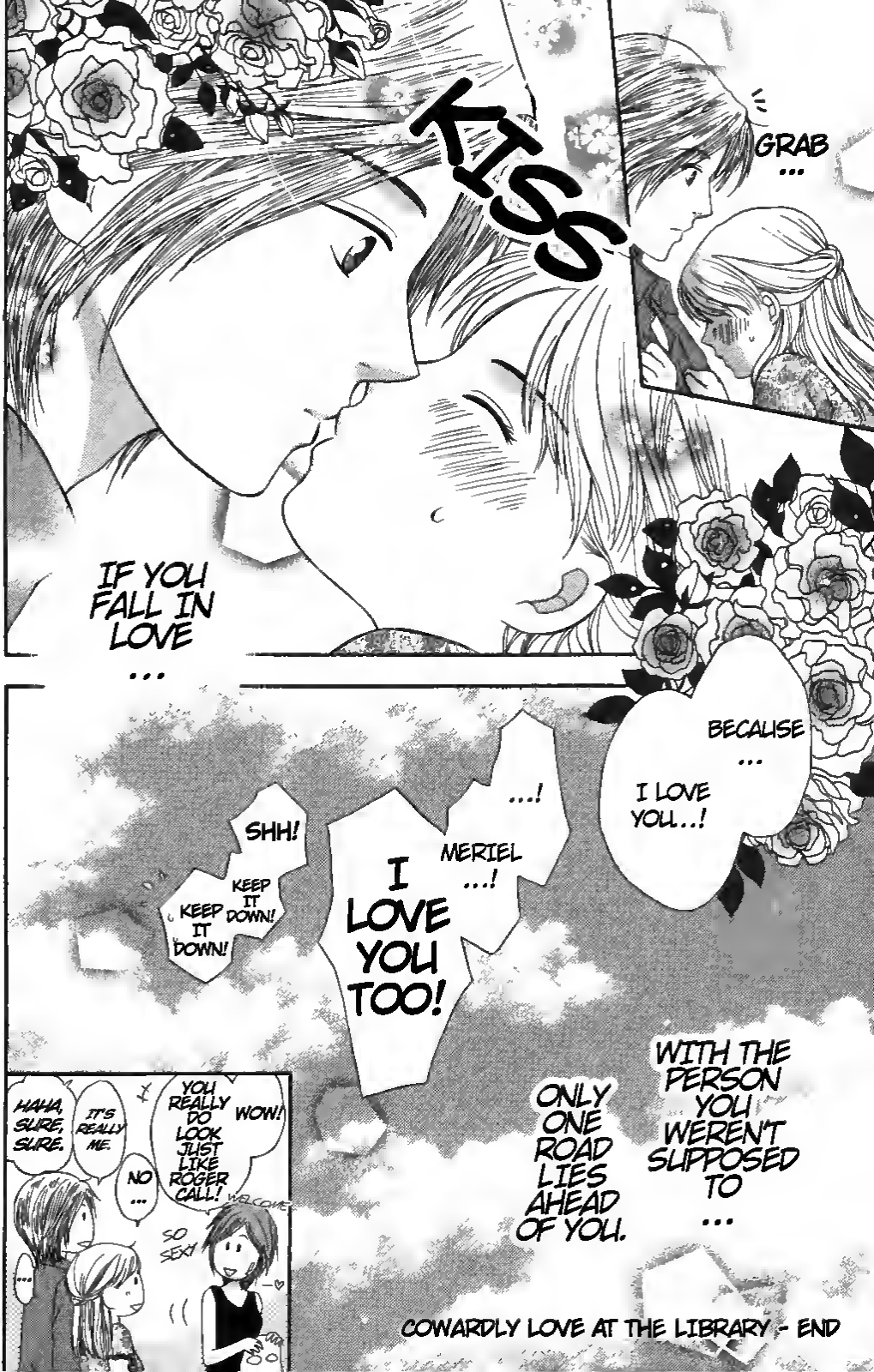

SO YOU LOVE HER FOR WHO SHE IS, RIGHT?
THAT'S GOOD.
?
WELL, YES, OBVIOUSLY.
...
BEFORE MERIEL STARTED LIVING WITH US ...
SHE'S BEEN DEEPLY HURT BY THE MAN HER PARENTS WANTED HER TO MARRY.
TO MAKE A LONG STORY SHORT ... SHE'S BEEN TOLD THAT SHE HAS NO VALUE OTHER THAN AS PROPERTY.

THAT'S WHY MERIEL LEFT HER RICH FAMILY ...
AND CHOSE TO FOLLOW HER OWN PATH, RELYING ONLY ON HERSELF.
WHEN YOU GET TIRED OF SOMETHING, IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO GET AWAY FROM IT FOR A WHILE.
I AGREE WITH YOU ON THAT.
OH ...

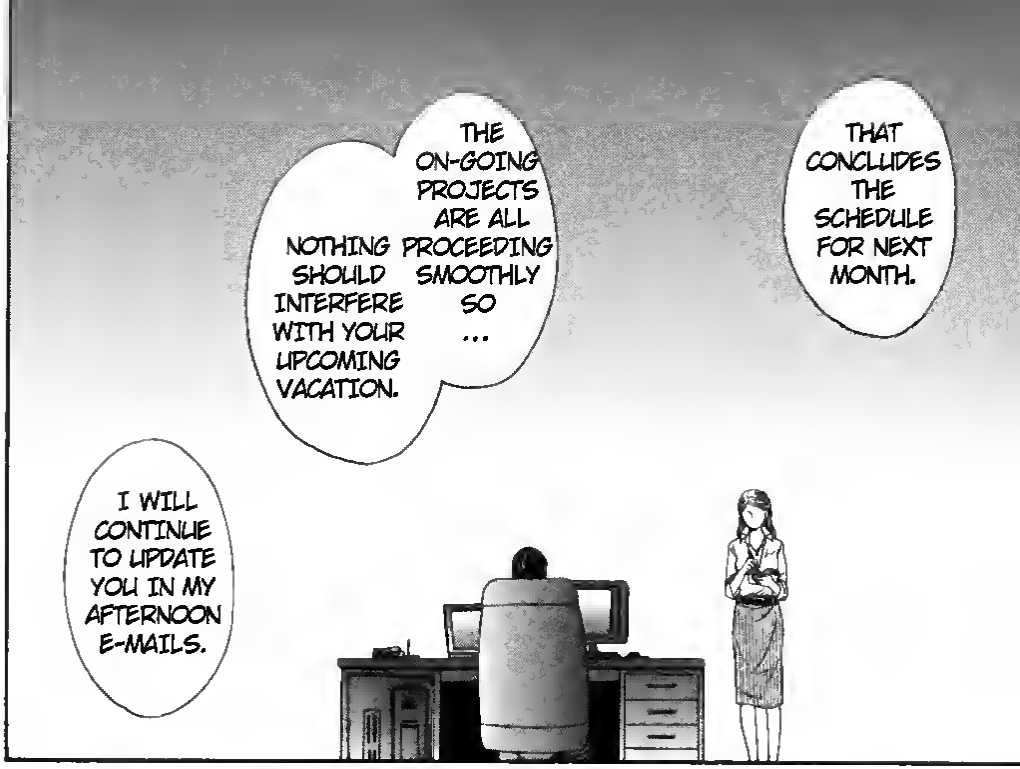
DING DONG
I SEE ...
SO THAT'S WHY ...
I THINK IT'S THE DELIVERY GUY!
MERIEL ...? COULD YOU ANSWER THE DOOOOR?
I KIND OF GOT MY HANDS FULL HERE!
SORRY
COMING.
TMP
TO HAVE KEPT YOU WAI ...
SORRY ...
CLICK
STEP
STEP

HUH ...?

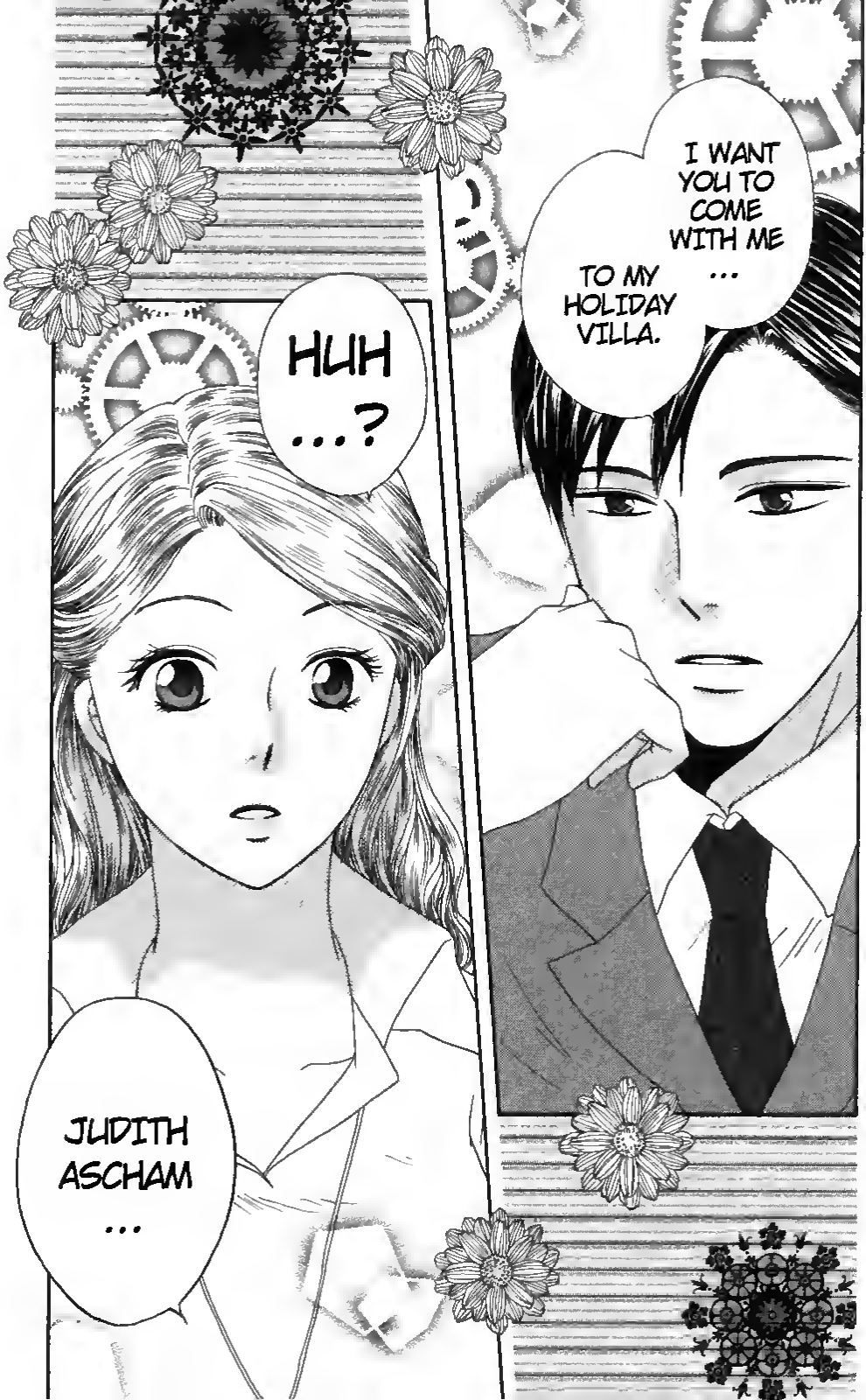
I THOUGHT WE WERE MEETING NEXT WEEK ...
MY SHOOT ENDED EARLY TODAY SO ...
I THOUGHT I'D DROP BY FOR A SECOND TO SEE YOU ...
WAAAHH!
MERIEL?! WHEN DID YOU BECOME THIS CUTE?!
ROGER?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
K.. KEEP IT DOWN!
SORRY FOR ... BEING A NUISANCE ...
YOU MUST THINK I'M HORRIBLE
OOF
OF COURSE NOT!
WHY ARE YOU SO NEGATIVE?
I'D NEVER THINK THAT ABOUT YOU. I JUST ...
I STILL HAVEN'T LOST ANY WEIGHT ...
I ASKED THE OTHERS FOR HELP AND I THINK THAT I IMPROVED MY APPEARANCE, BUT ONLY A LITTLE BIT.
NOT THAT I THOUGHT I COULD SLIM DOWN IN ONE WEEK BUT I WANTED TO AT LEAST DROP A FEW POUNDS ...
BLUSH
YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOSE WEIGHT
"WHY"?
BUT WHY?
YOU WERE ENOUGH FOR ME BEFORE BUT THIS IS EVEN BETTER.
YEAH!
YOU'RE SO CUTE AND PRETTY AND CUTE -


KISS
GRAB ...
IF YOU FALL IN LOVE ...
BECAUSE ...
I LOVE YOU...!
...!
MERIEL ...!
I LOVE YOU TOO!
SHH!
KEEP IT DOWN!
KEEP IT DOWN!
WITH THE PERSON YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO ...
ONLY ONE ROAD LIES AHEAD OF YOU.
WOW!
YOU REALLY DO LOOK JUST LIKE ROGER CALL!
NO ...
IT'S REALLY ME.
HAHA, SURE, SURE.
...
WELCOME
SO SEXY
COWARDLY LOVE AT THE LIBRARY - END

APPLEHOUSE SERIES 4
THE AFTERNOON I WALKED WITH YOU


THAT CONCLUDES THE SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MONTH.
THE ON-GOING PROJECTS ARE ALL PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY SO ...
NOTHING SHOULD INTERFERE WITH YOUR UPCOMING VACATION.
I WILL CONTINUE TO UPDATE YOU IN MY AFTERNOON E-MAILS.

JUDITH ... WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING DURING MY VACATION?
I WILL CONTINUE TO COME TO THE OFFICE.
IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN, I CAN ALWAYS ...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME TO THE OFFICE.
!!
AM I ... BEING PUT ON PAID LEAVE?


I WANT YOU TO COME WITH ME ...
TO MY HOLIDAY VILLA.
HUH ...?
JUDITH ASCHAM ...

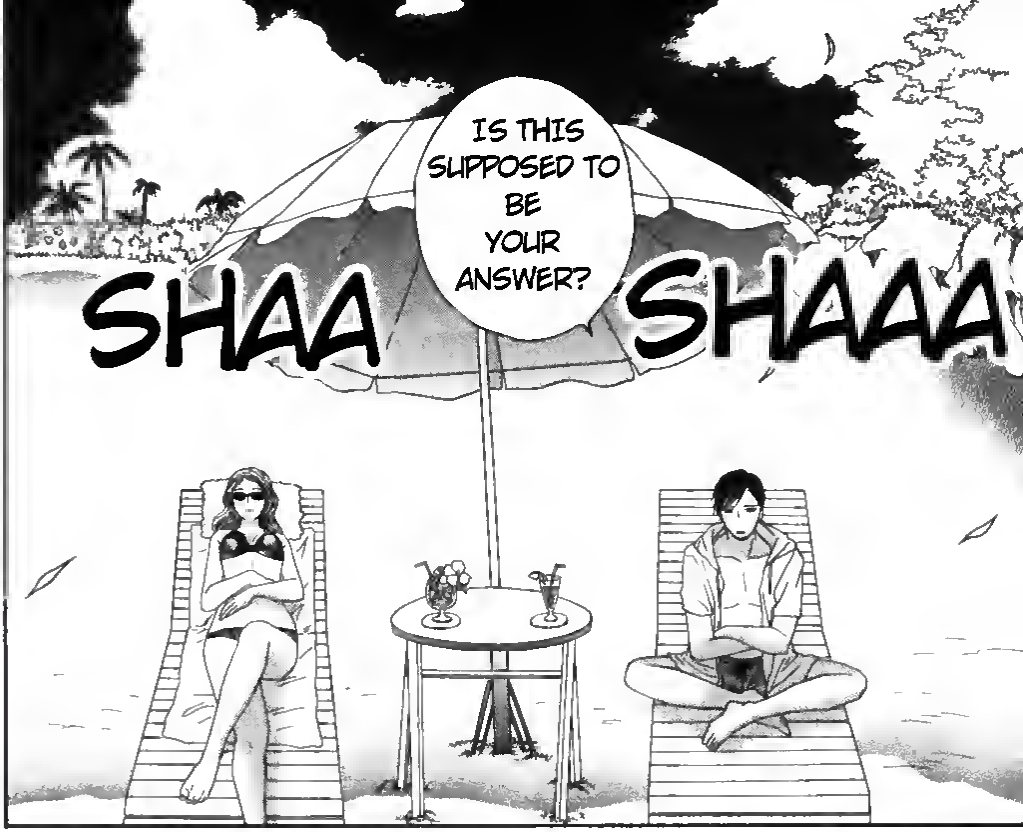
I HAVE ONLY EVER BEEN CERTAIN OF ONE THING ABOUT HIM.

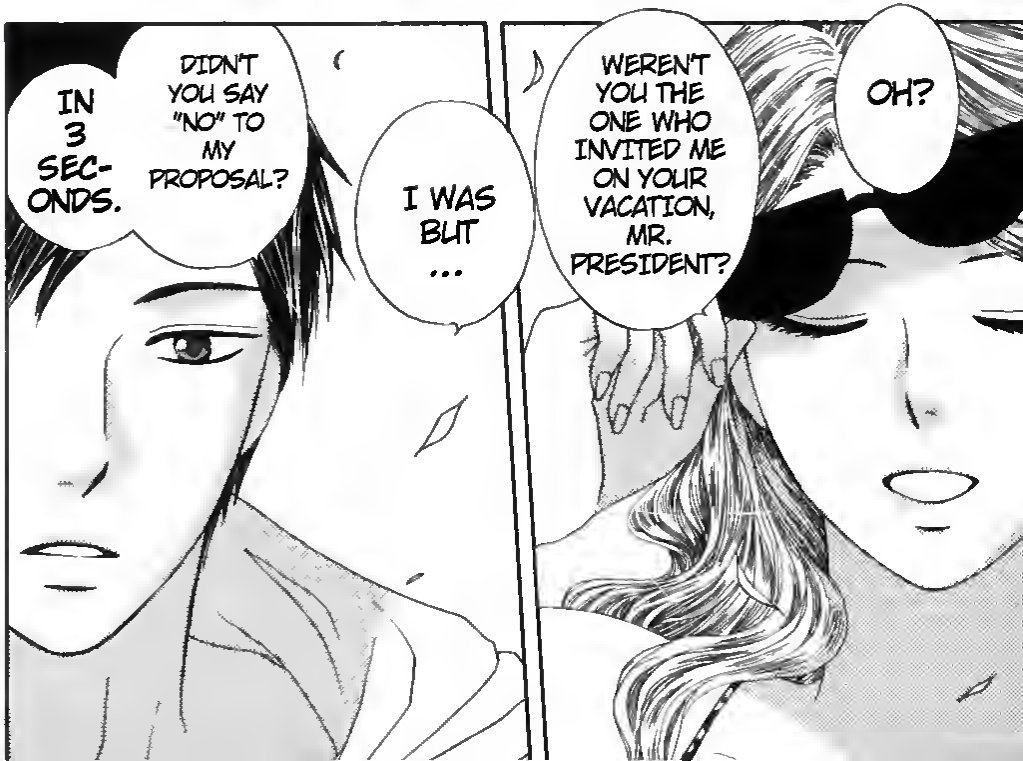
DURING THE 2 YEARS SINCE I STARTED WORKING AS HIS SECRETARY ...

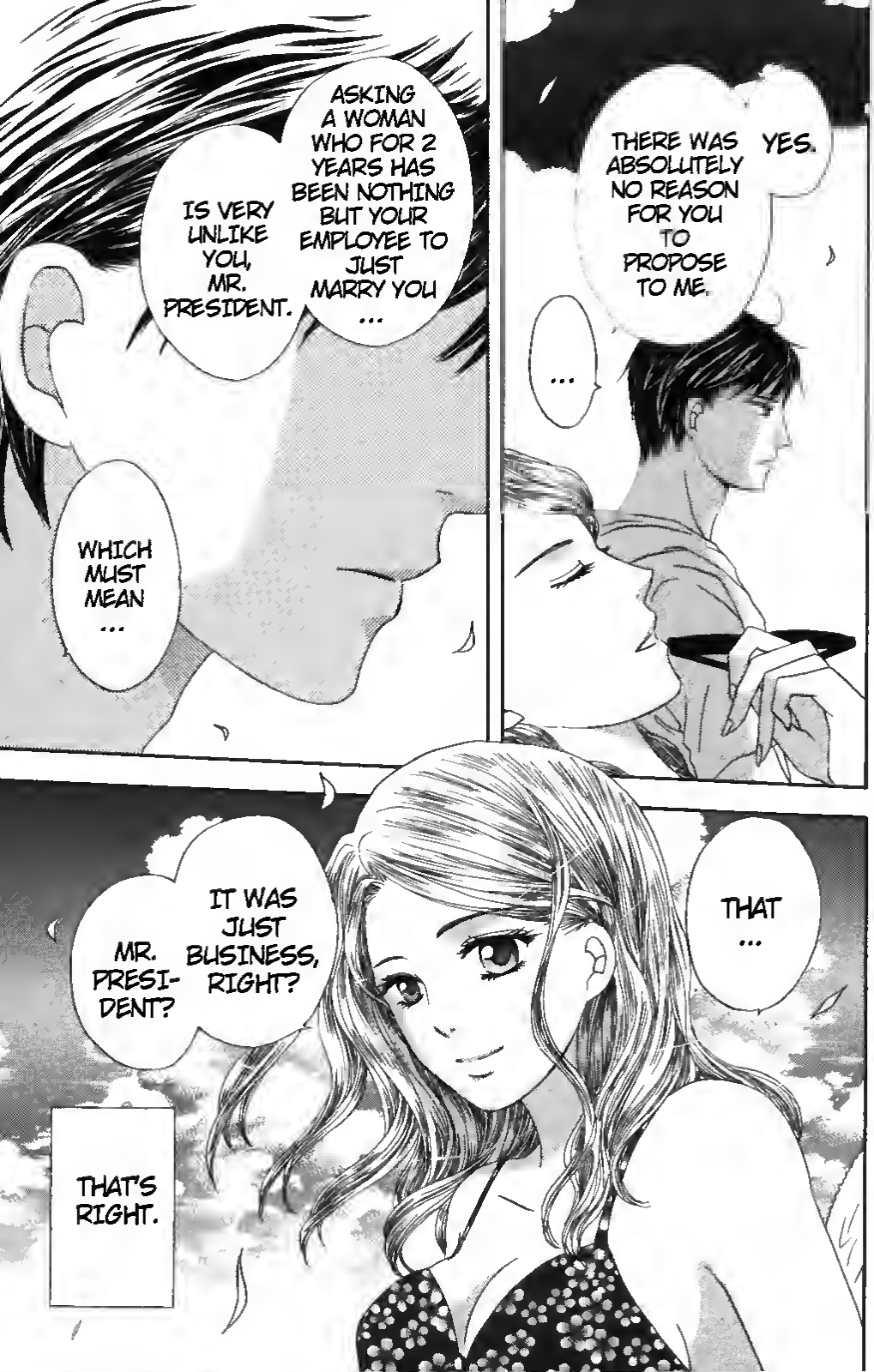
LANCELOT BARNETT.

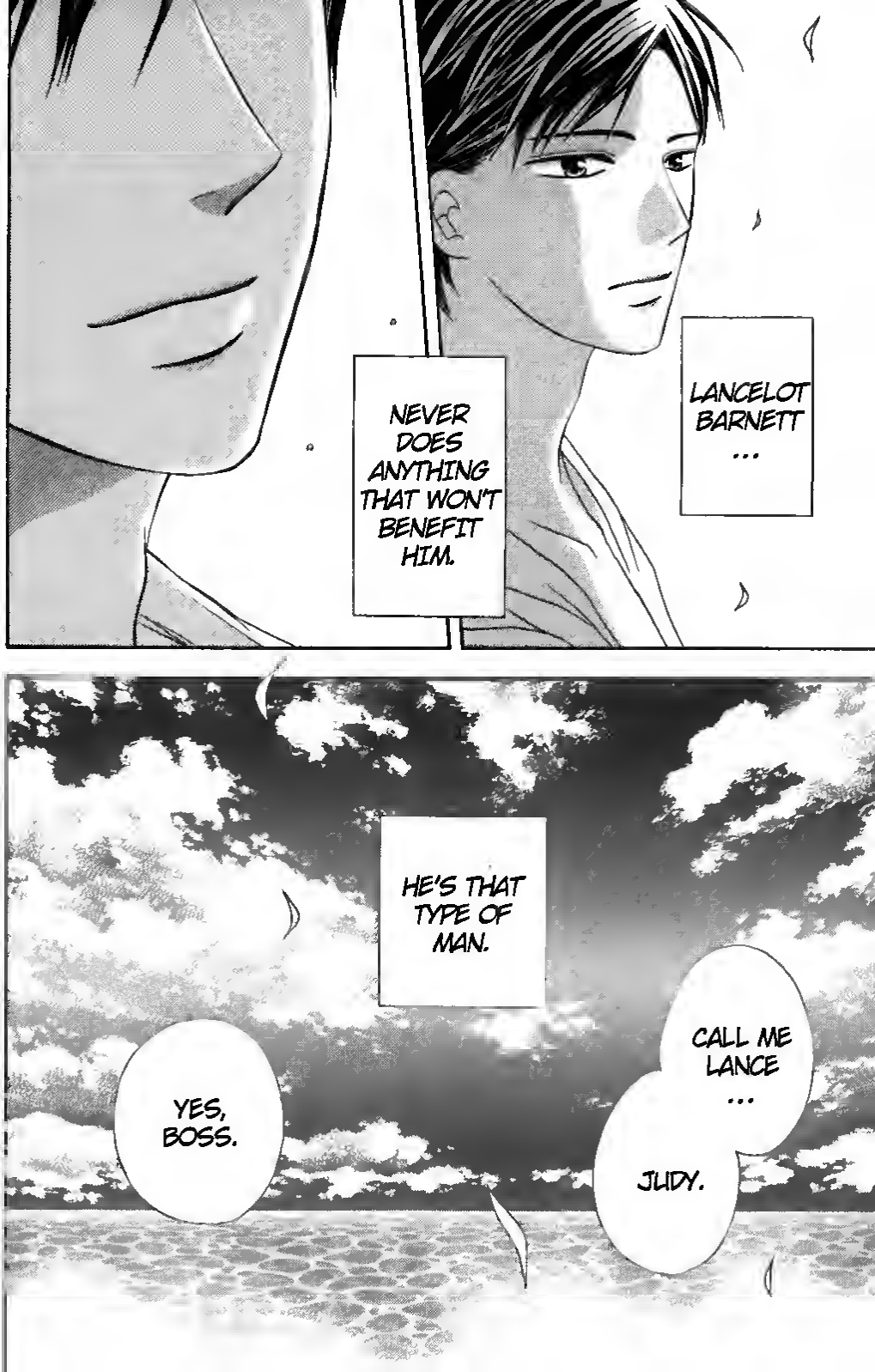
THE PRESIDENT OF THE HILDEGARD CORPORATION (AN OFFICE EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURER) ...

IT WAS ...
THESE PAST 2 YEARS ...
I'VE NEVER HEARD YOU TELL A JOKE.
NONETHELESS ...
I COULDN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT THAT WAS A ONE IN A LIFETIME EXAMPLE OF YOU USING HUMOR.
SO WHEN YOU PROPOSED, IN THAT INSTANT ...
I WAS RACKING MY BRAIN AS TO HOW I SHOULD REACT TO THAT AS YOUR SECRETARY. WAS I SUPPOSED TO BE LAUGHING OR GIVE YOU AN ANSWER?
SO ...

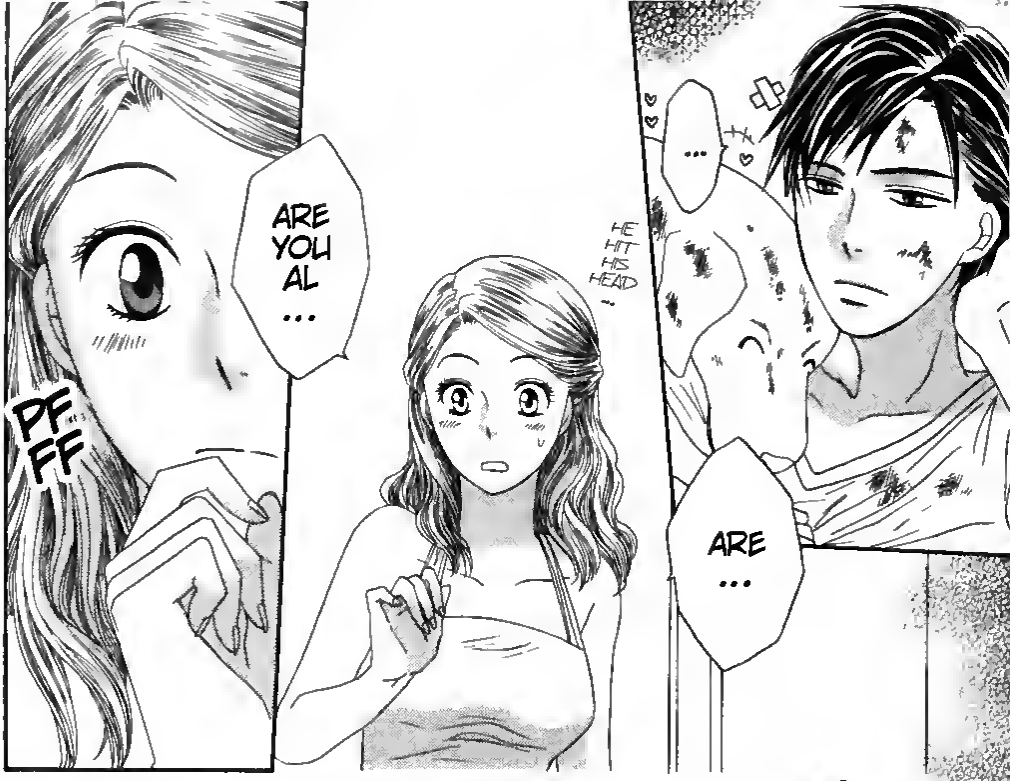

SHAA
SHAAA
IS THIS SUPPOSED TO BE YOUR ANSWER?


IN 3 SEC-ONDS.
DIDN'T YOU SAY "NO" TO MY PROPOSAL?
I WAS BUT ...
WEREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO INVITED ME ON YOUR VACATION, MR. PRESIDENT?
OH?


YES.
THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO REASON FOR YOU TO PROPOSE TO ME.
...
ASKING A WOMAN WHO FOR 2 YEARS HAS BEEN NOTHING BUT YOUR EMPLOYEE TO JUST MARRY YOU ...
IS VERY UNLIKE YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.
WHICH MUST MEAN ...
THAT ...
IT WAS JUST BUSINESS, RIGHT?
MR. PRESI-DENT?
THAT'S RIGHT.


LANCELOT BARNETT ...
NEVER DOES ANYTHING THAT WON'T BENEFIT HIM.
HE'S THAT TYPE OF MAN.
CALL ME LANCE ...
JUDY.
YES, BOSS.

BARK BARK
BARK
JUDY!
HELP ME OUT HERE!
BARK
BARK
BARK
BARNEY FROM NEXT DOOR CAME INSIDE ALL COVERED IN MUD ...
UGH!
DEAR, DEAR.
WHACK!
HE MUST HAVE BEEN PLAYING IN THE BACKYARD PUDDLES.
WHAM
SLURP SLURP
THUD
?!
AH!

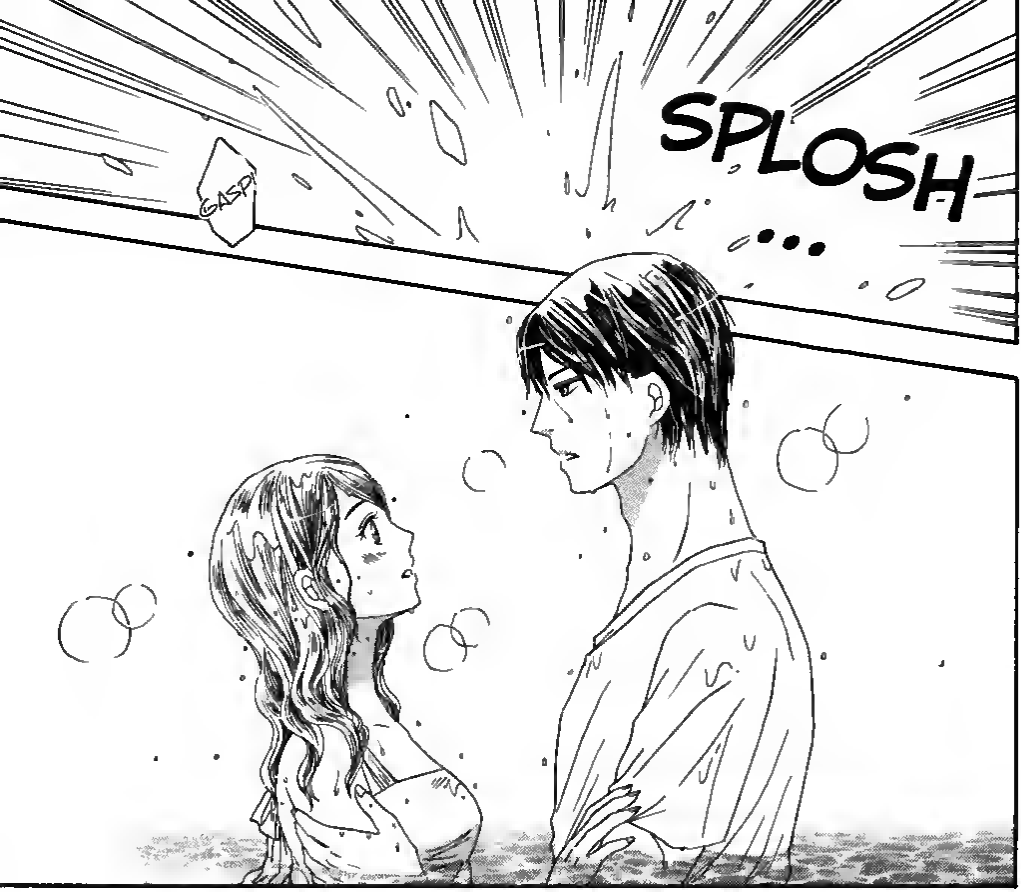

ARE YOU ALL ...
PF FF
HE HIT HIS HEAD -
...
ARE ...

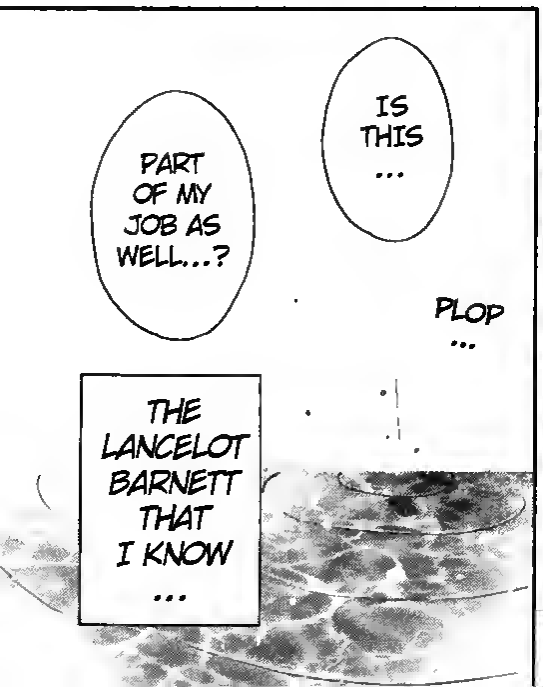
PFFFT!
IN MUD!
BY A DOG ...
LANCELOT BARNETT HAS BEEN ...
MR. PRESIDENT ... LANCE!
PF FF FT!
AH ...
AHAHAHA!
TREMBLE TREMBLE
I'M SORRY
AHAHA HAHA.
I, I CAN'T BREATHE ...
PFFFT!

NOTHING ...
HM?
MY STOMACH HURTS
HAH
COULD YOU JUST SPRAY SOME WATER ON ME AND THIS TROUBLESOME DOG?
I SEE.
SO THAT'S HOW YOU LAUGH.
AHAHAHA
HEHEHE
COUGH
WATER? ME?
...
HILDEGARD LANCELOT BARNETT, IS ASKING ME TO SPRAY WATER ON HIM?
THE WHIZ OF THE BUSINESS WORLD, THE GENTLEMAN IN THE IRON MASK" ...
WATER?
YES, SO WE CAN JUMP IN THE POOL.
IT'LL BE FASTER
HAH HAH
WAG WAG

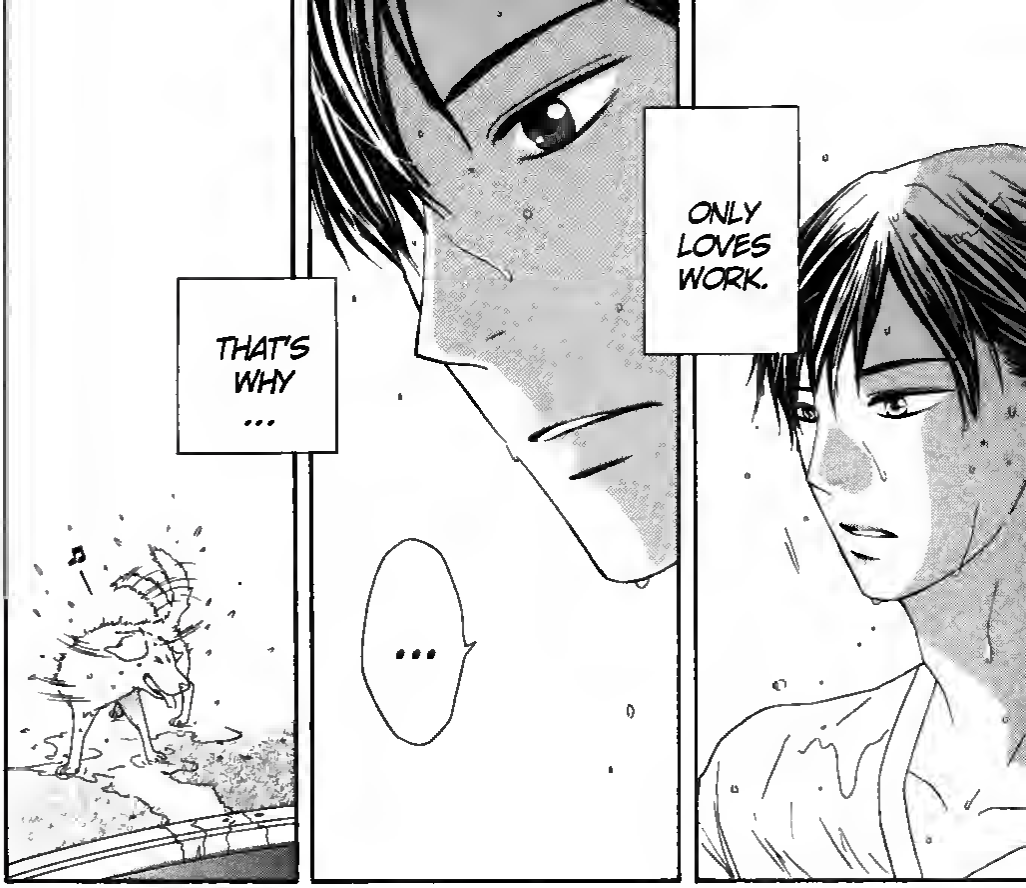
CHANGE OF PLANS.
UP WE GO
YA AA AA!
NOOOOOOOOO
SLURP
SLURP
SLURP
JUMP
LIFT
WAIT ...
WAI ...!
HUH ...?

DA
SH
WAIT!
TAP
SPL
ASH
COUGH
BLUB
BLUB

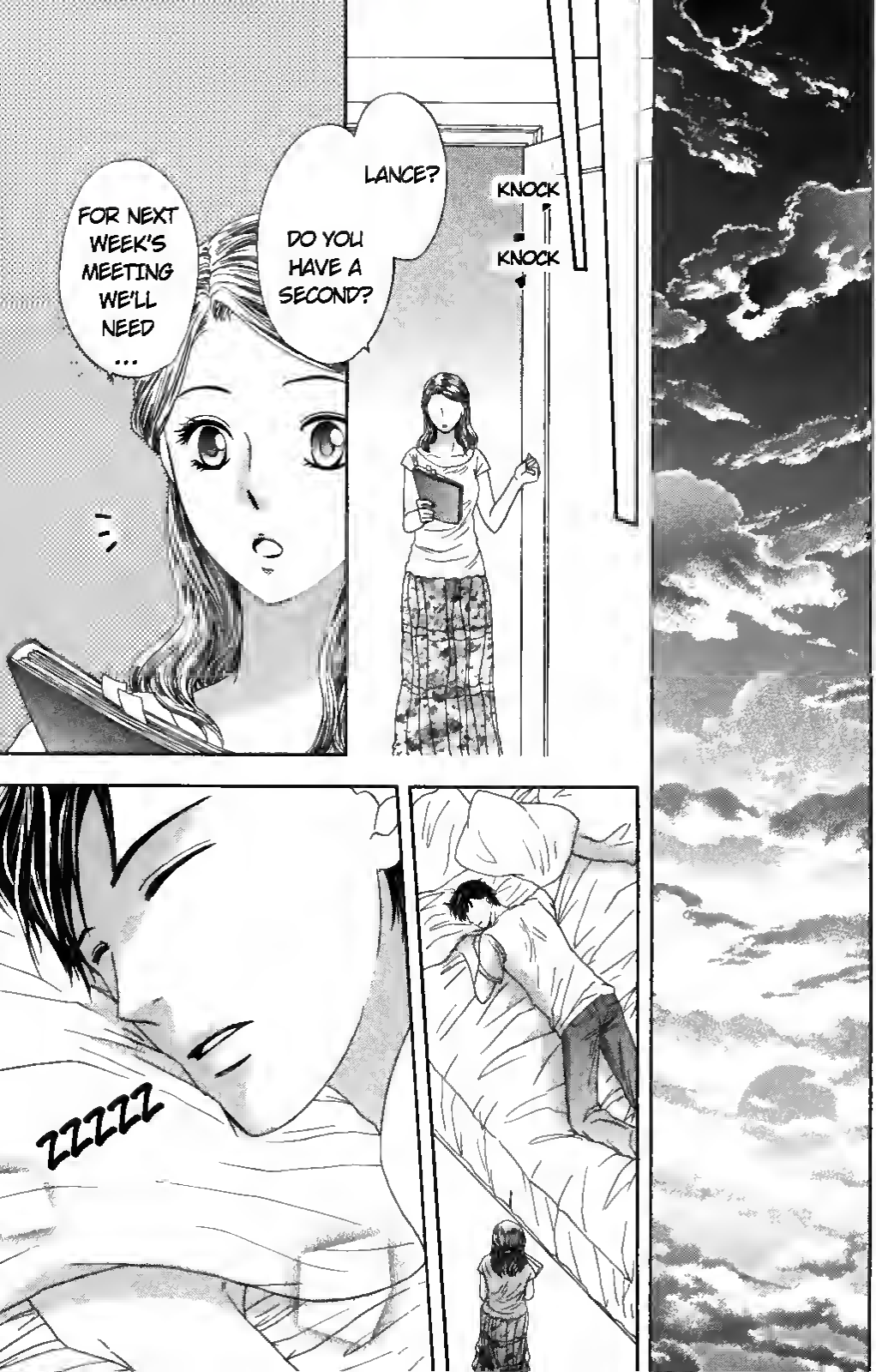

SPLOSH...
GASP!

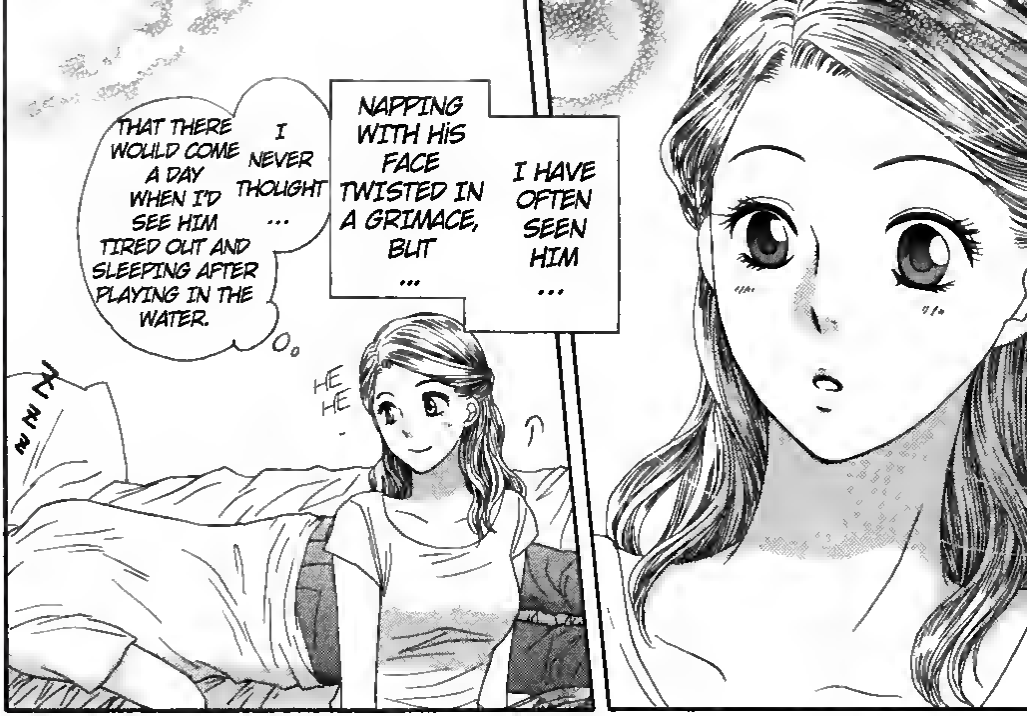

IS THIS ...
PART OF MY JOB AS WELL...?
PLOP...
THE LANCELOT BARNETT THAT I KNOW ...

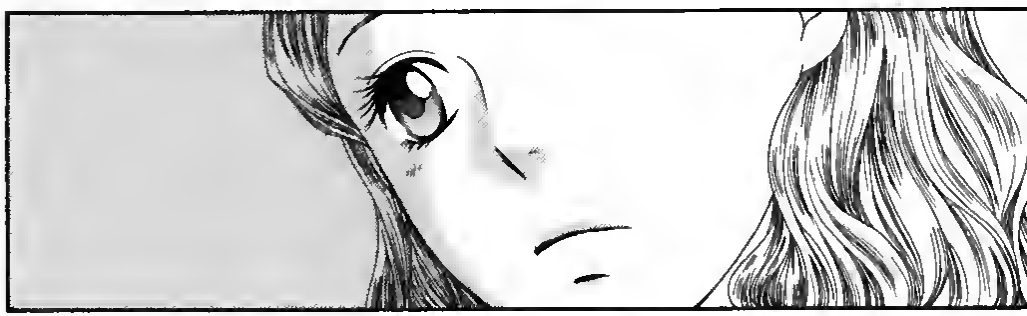
HAH

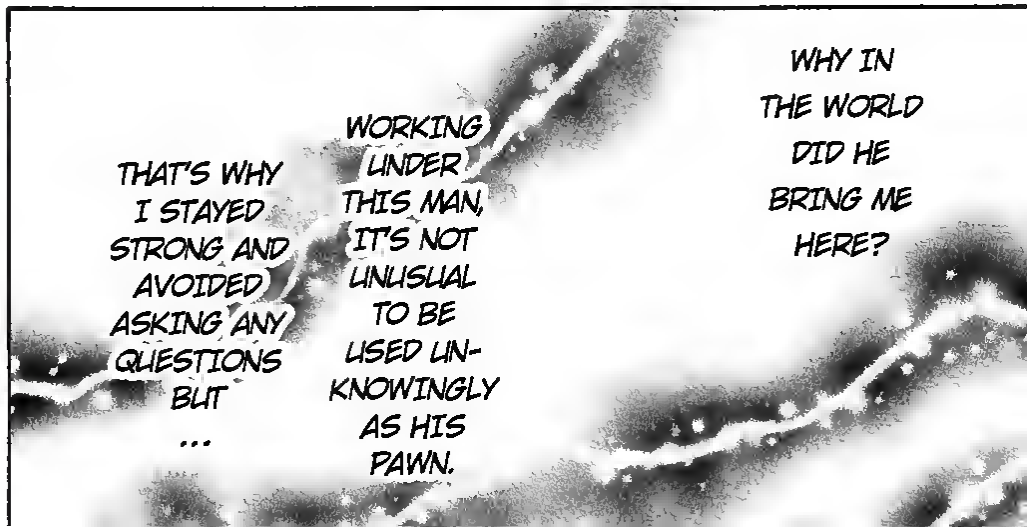

ONLY LOVES WORK.
THAT'S WHY ...
...

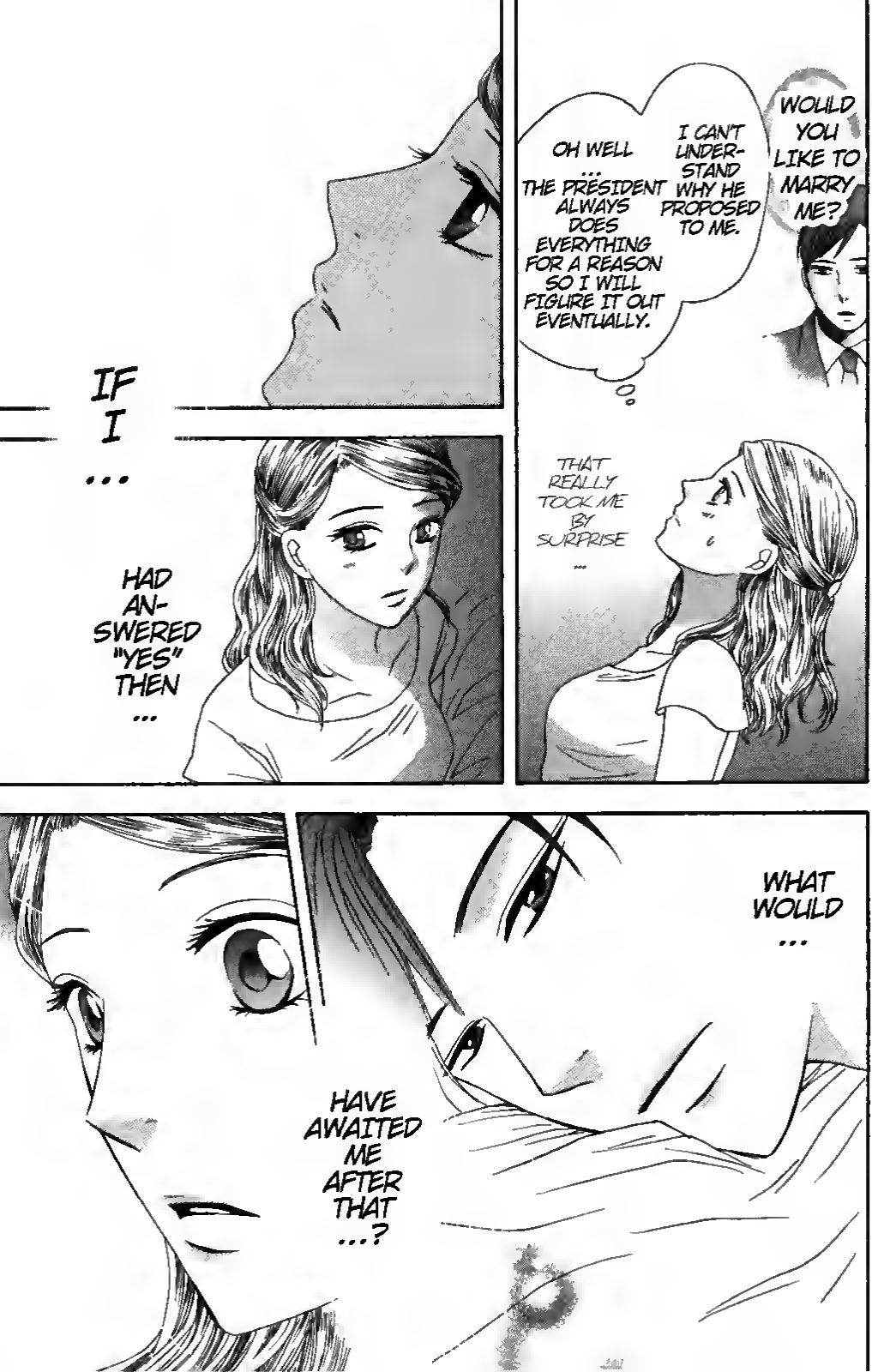
SORRY ...
I'VE TAKEN MY FEELINGS ...
AND STIFLED THEM TO DEATH.

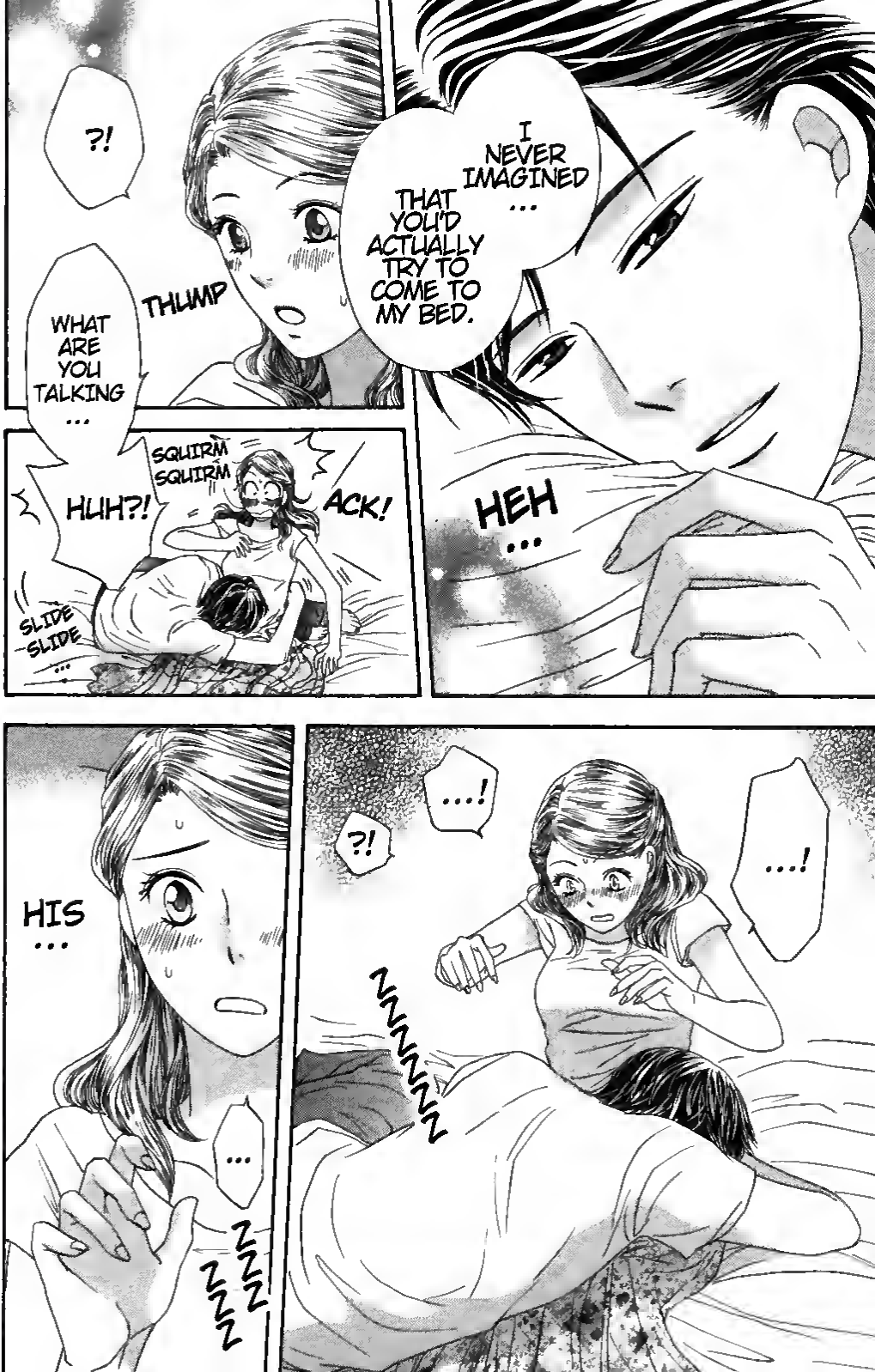

FOR NEXT WEEK'S MEETING WE'LL NEED ...
LANCE? DO YOU HAVE A SECOND?
KNOCK
KNOCK
ZZZZZ

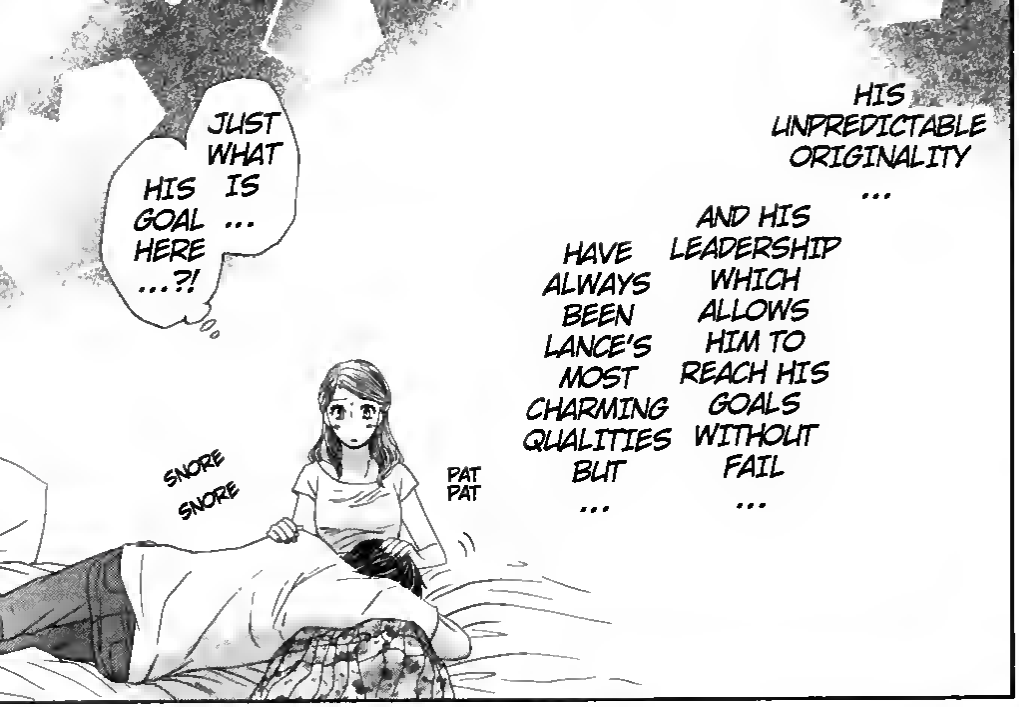

I NEVER THOUGHT ...
THAT THERE WOULD COME A DAY WHEN I'D SEE HIM TIRED OUT AND SLEEPING AFTER PLAYING IN THE WATER.
NAPPING WITH HIS FACE TWISTED IN A GRIMACE, BUT ...
I HAVE OFTEN SEEN HIM ...
HE HE

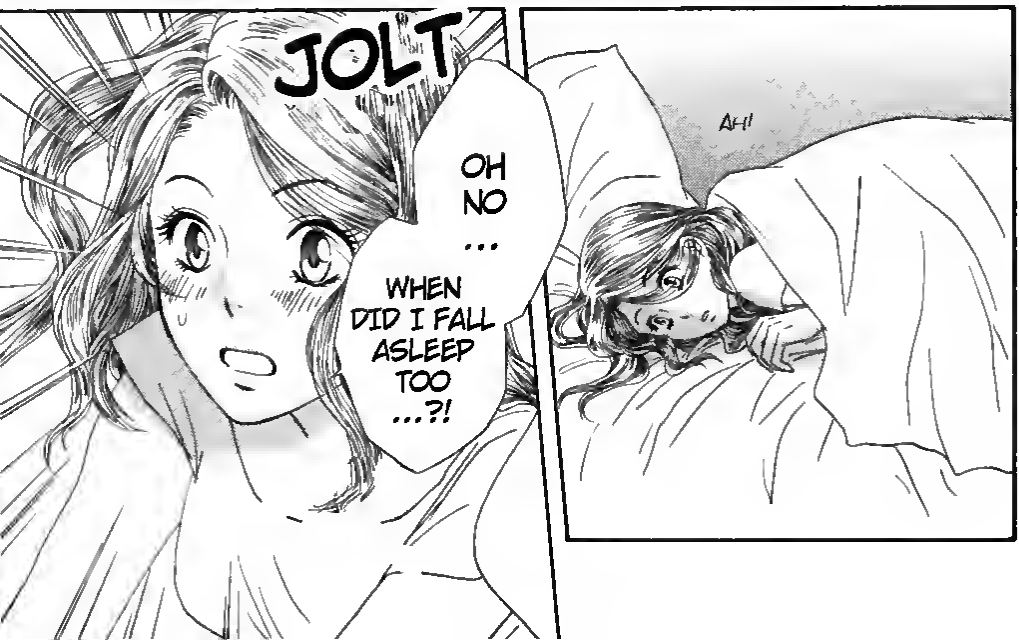


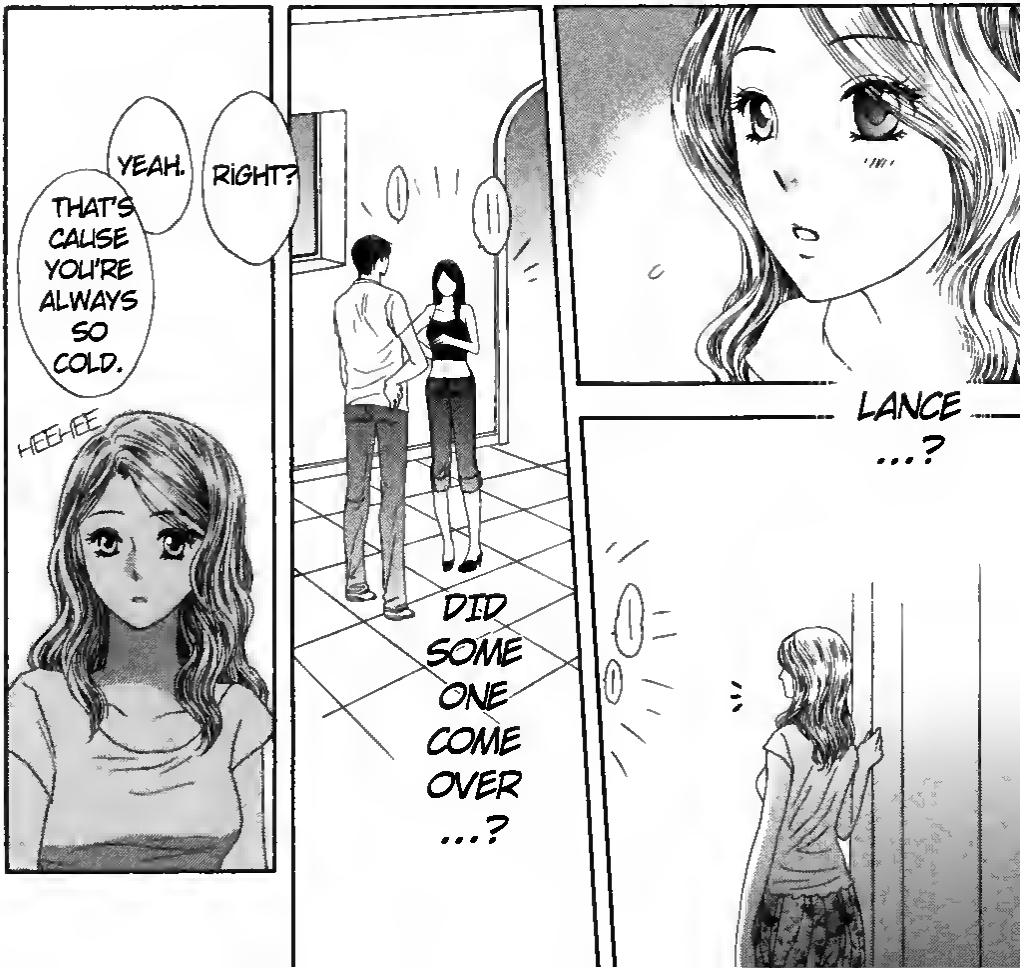

WHY IN THE WORLD DID HE BRING ME HERE?
WORKING UNDER THIS MAN, IT'S NOT UNUSUAL TO BE USED UN-KNOWINGLY AS HIS PAWN.
THAT'S WHY I STAYED STRONG AND AVOIDED ASKING ANY QUESTIONS BUT ...


WOULD YOU LIKE TO MARRY ME?
I CAN'T UNDER-STAND WHY HE PROPOSED TO ME.
OH WELL ... THE PRESIDENT ALWAYS DOES EVERYTHING FOR A REASON SO I WILL FIGURE IT OUT EVENTUALLY.
THAT REALLY TOOK ME BY SURPRISE ...
IF I ...
HAD AN-SWERED "YES" THEN ...
WHAT WOULD ...
HAVE AWAITED ME AFTER THAT ...?


?!
THUMP
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ...
I NEVER IMAGINED ...
THAT YOU'D ACTUALLY TRY TO COME TO MY BED.
HEH ...
SQUIRM SQUIRM
HUH?!
ACK!
SLIDE SLIDE ...
HIS ...
...
ZZZZZZZ
ZZZZ
?!
...!
...!

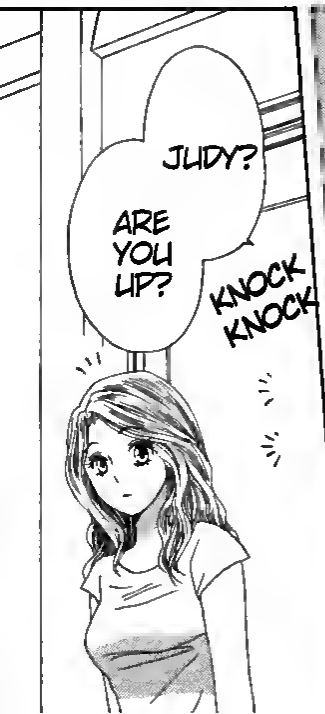

HIS UNPREDICTABLE ORIGINALITY ...
AND HIS LEADERSHIP WHICH ALLOWS HIM TO REACH HIS GOALS WITHOUT FAIL ...
HAVE ALWAYS BEEN LANCE'S MOST CHARMING QUALITIES BUT ...
JUST WHAT IS HIS GOAL HERE ...?!
SNORE SNORE
PAT PAT


JOLT
OH NO ...
WHEN DID I FALL ASLEEP TOO ...?!
AH!

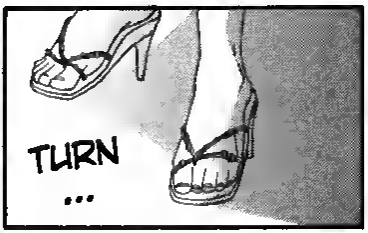

YEAH.
RIGHT?
THAT'S CAUSE YOU'RE ALWAYS SO COLD.
HEE-HEE
DID SOME ONE COME OVER ...?
LANCE ...?

I'LL BE HERE FOR 2 MORE DAYS.
SO DEFINITELY DROP BY TO SEE ME!
I CAN'T PROMISE ANYTHING.
OH NO YOU DON'T!

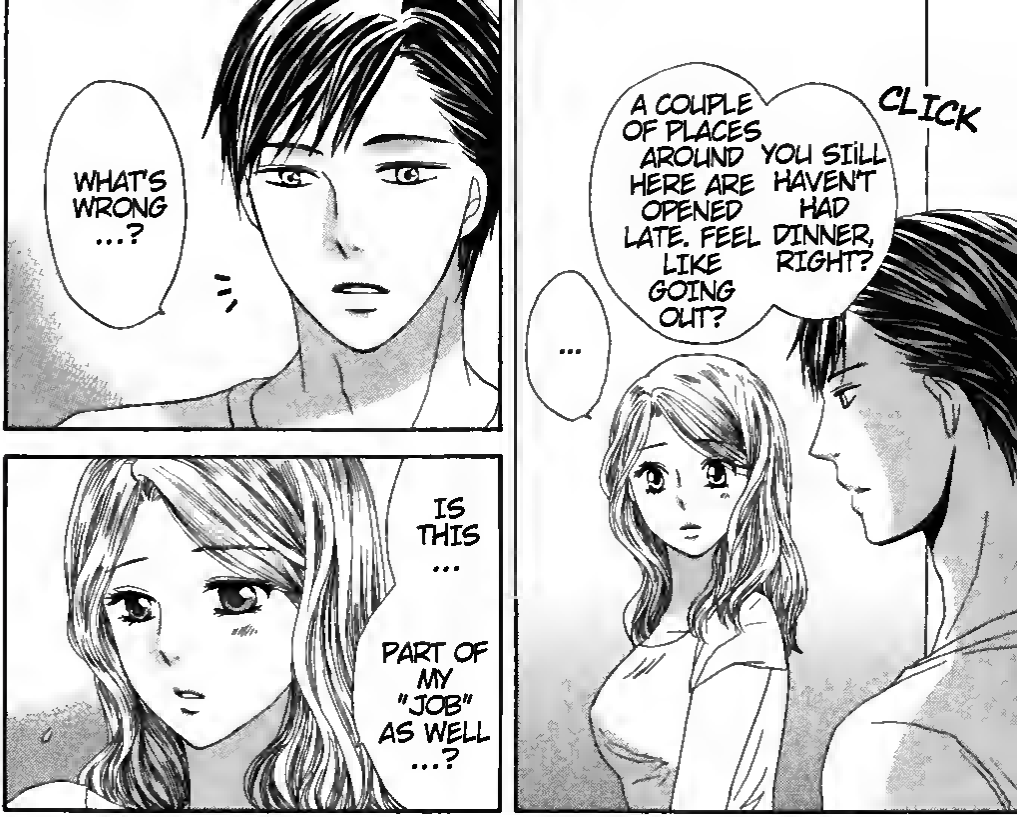
PROMISE ME!
YES YES

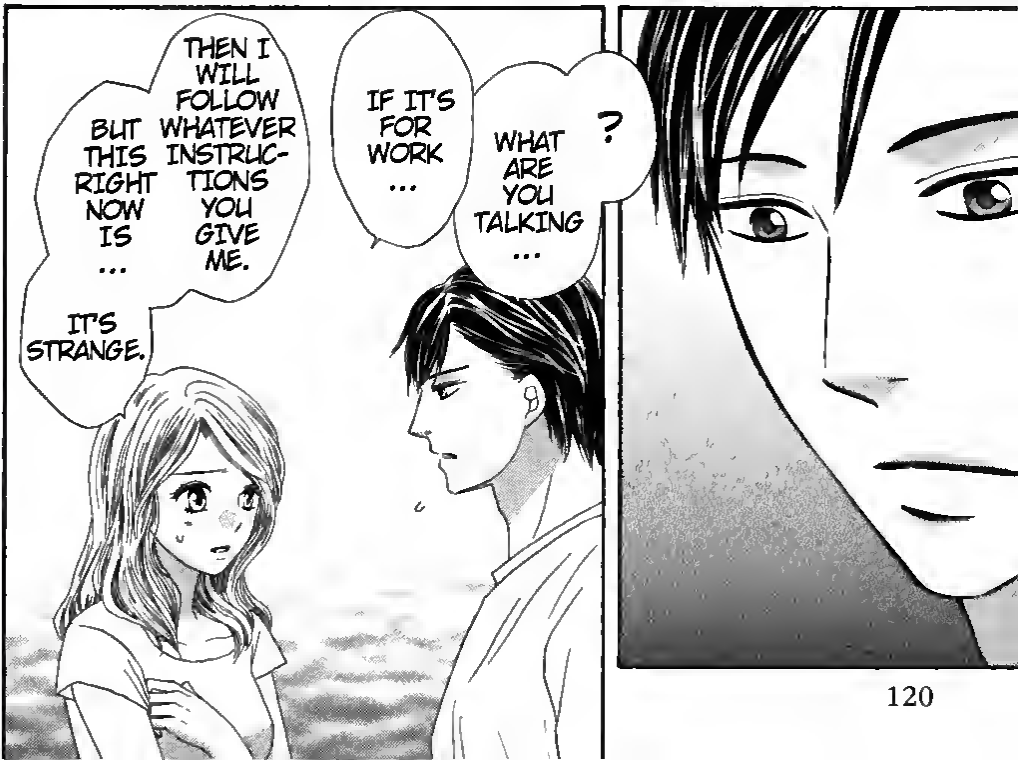

JUDY?
ARE YOU UP?
KNOCK KNOCK

...

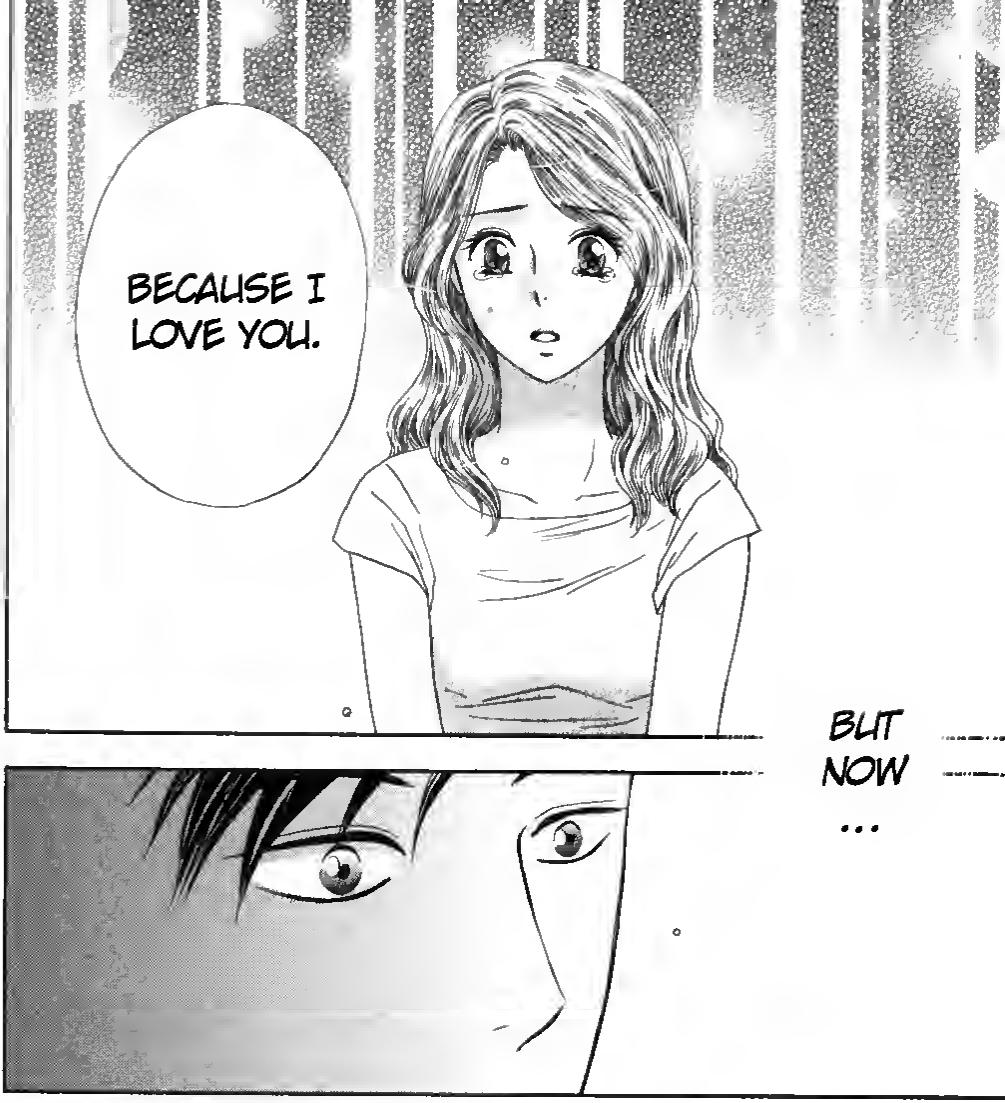

TURN ...

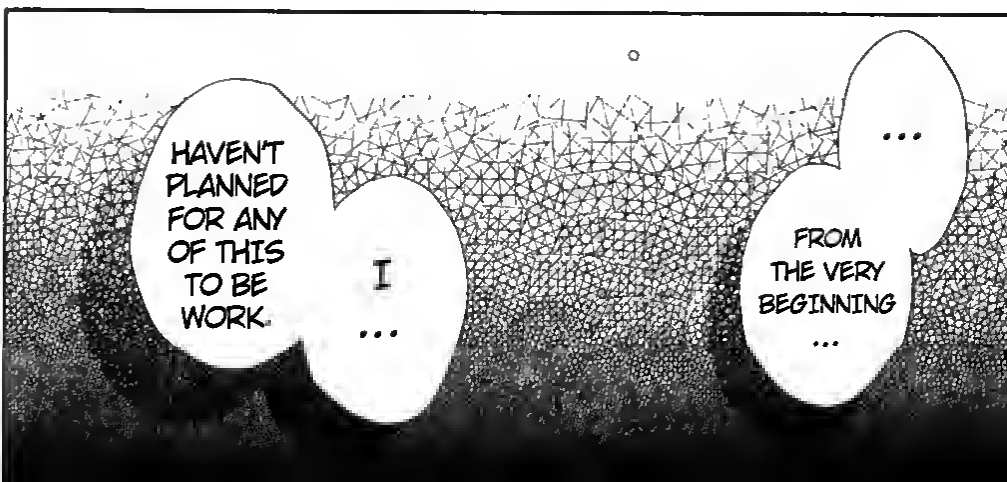
TCHK ....


WHAT'S WRONG ...?
IS THIS ... PART OF MY "JOB" AS WELL ...?
CLICK
A COUPLE OF PLACES AROUND HERE ARE OPENED LATE. FEEL LIKE GOING OUT?
YOU STILL HAVEN'T HAD DINNER, RIGHT?
...


IT'S STRANGE.
BUT THIS RIGHT NOW IS ...
THEN I WILL FOLLOW WHATEVER INSTRUC-TIONS YOU GIVE ME.
IF IT'S FOR WORK ...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ...?

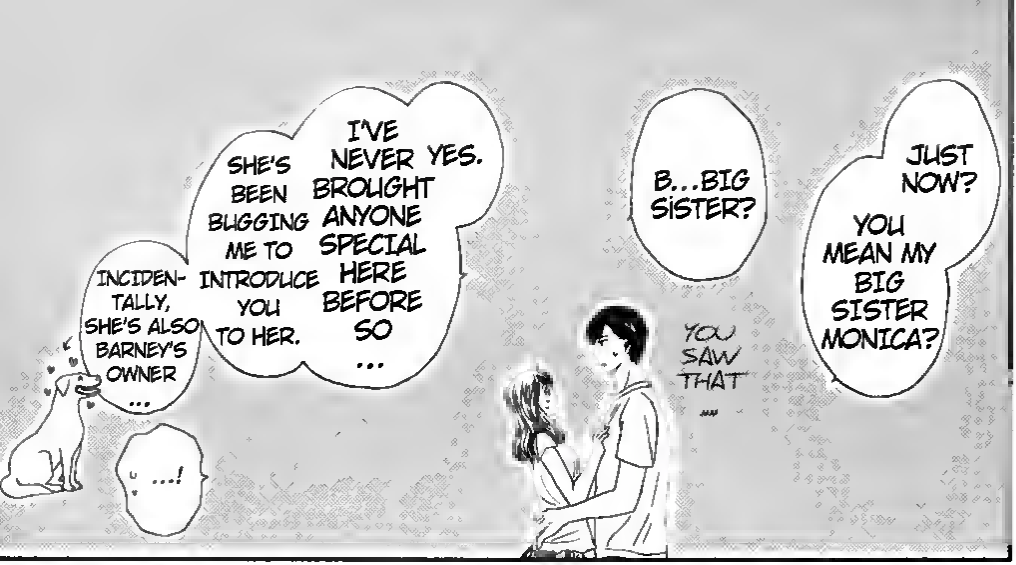
WHO'S STRANGE.
I'M THE ONE ...
ARE YOU KEEPING ME HERE ...
BECAUSE YOU WANT TO USE ME IN SOME PLAN?
JUDY ...
THE PRESIDENT MUST BE APPALLED ...
BY MY EMOTIONAL DISPLAY.
I ...
CANNOT DO THIS ANYMORE.
BECAUSE I ...

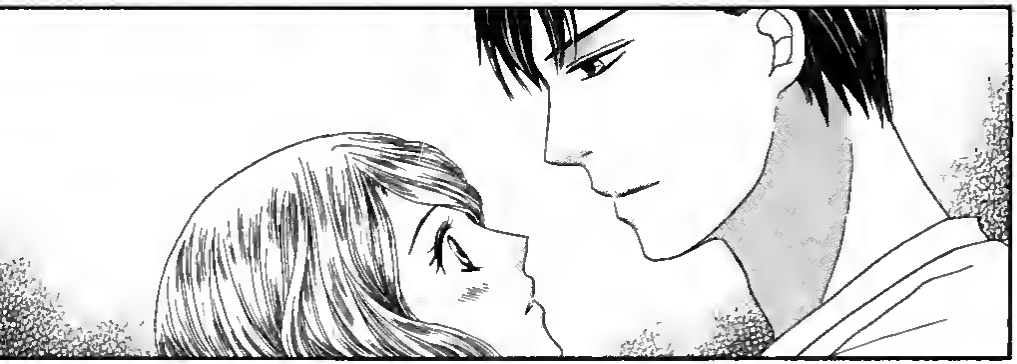

BECAUSE I LOVE YOU.
BUT NOW ...


...
FROM THE VERY BEGINNING ...
I ...
HAVEN'T PLANNED FOR ANY OF THIS TO BE WORK.

I WAS ALSO SERIOUS ...
HUG ...
ABOUT MY PROPOSAL.
HUH ...?
LAST MONTH I ...
OVERHEARD REED FROM SALES FLIRTING WITH YOU.
YOU REALLY ARE AN IDEAL WOMAN, JUDITH.
I'D LOVE FOR YOU TO BE MY WIFE.
WELL, THANK YOU.
TEE HEE

ALSO, THAT ...
AS I LISTENED TO THAT ... I NOTICED FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT I'M IN THE SAME POSITION AS REED.
I WONDER IF YOU'D SAY THE SAME THING IF YOU SAW JUDITH ASCHAM ON HER DAYS OFF.
BUT YOU ONLY KNOW THE "WORK" ME.
I KNEW THAT YOU'D STAY OVER HERE AS LONG AS YOU THOUGHT IT WAS WORK SO ...
I DID NOT DENY IT ... I'M SORRY IF IT SEEMS THAT I'VE DECEIVED YOU.
... WHO ... WHO WAS THAT PERSON JUST NOW ...?
YOU BELONG TO ME.
OR THAT ...
I MISTAKENLY THOUGHT THAT I WAS THE ONE WHO UNDERSTOOD JUDITH ASCHAM ...


JUST NOW?
YOU MEAN MY BIG SISTER MONICA?
B...BIG SISTER?
YES. I'VE NEVER BROUGHT ANYONE SPECIAL HERE BEFORE SO ...
SHE'S BEEN BUGGING ME TO INTRODUCE YOU TO HER.
INCIDENTALLY, SHE'S ALSO BARNEY'S OWNER ...
...!
YOU SAW THAT ...

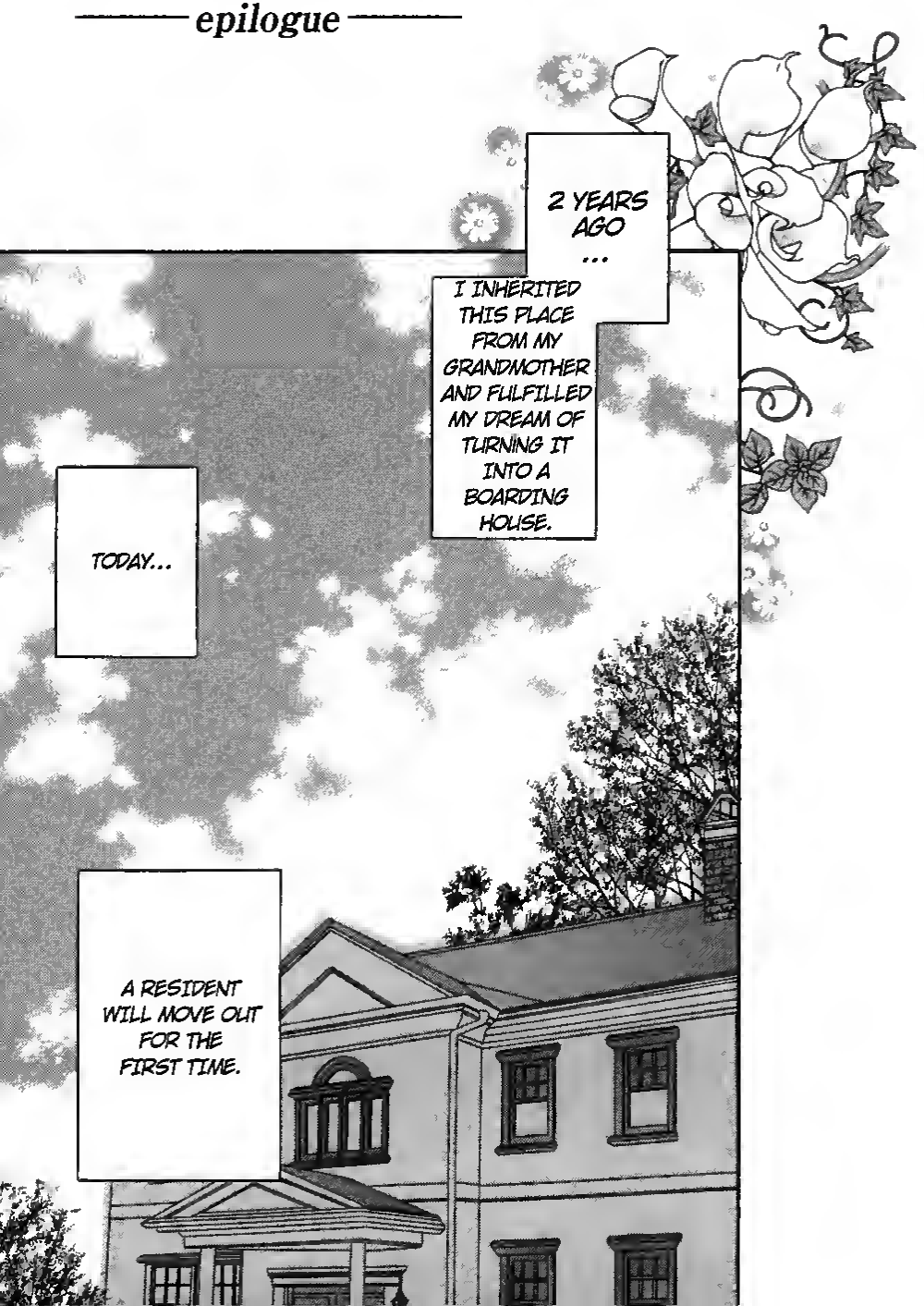


DURING THESE PAST FEW DAYS ...
I'VE BECOME COMPLETELY OBSESSED WITH YOU ...
JUDY.

THE AFTERNOON I WALKED WITH YOU - END

HAPPY AFTER STORY

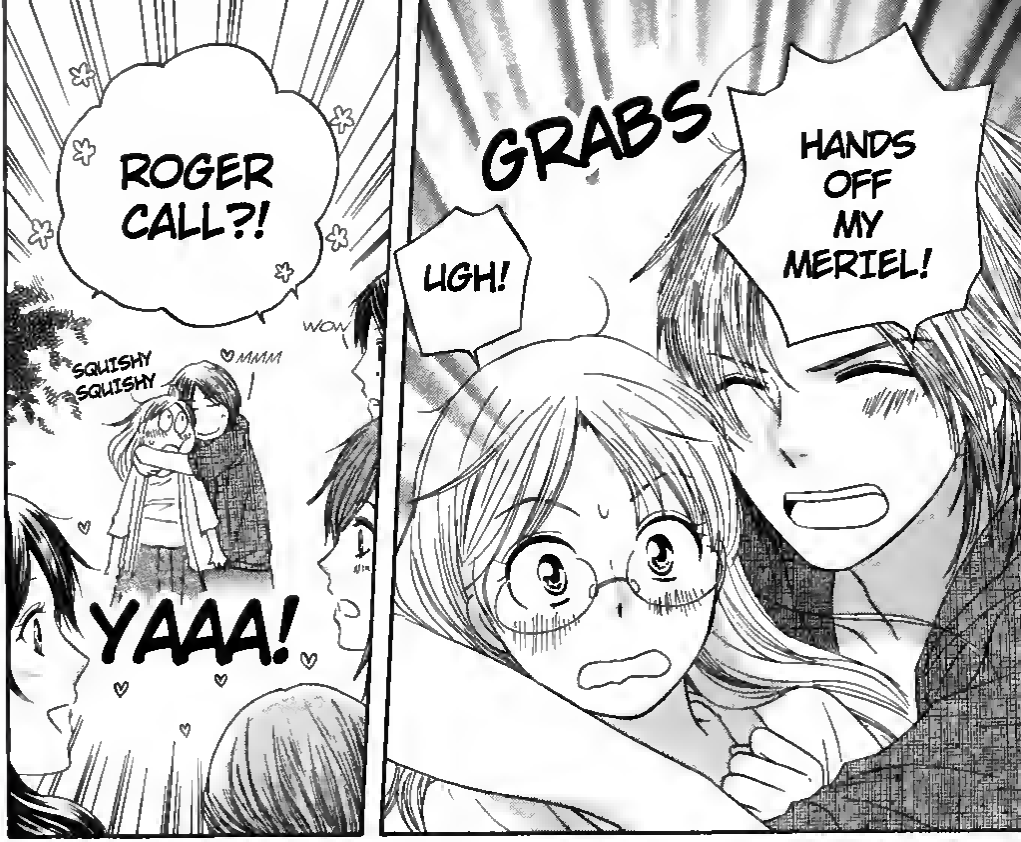
epilogue

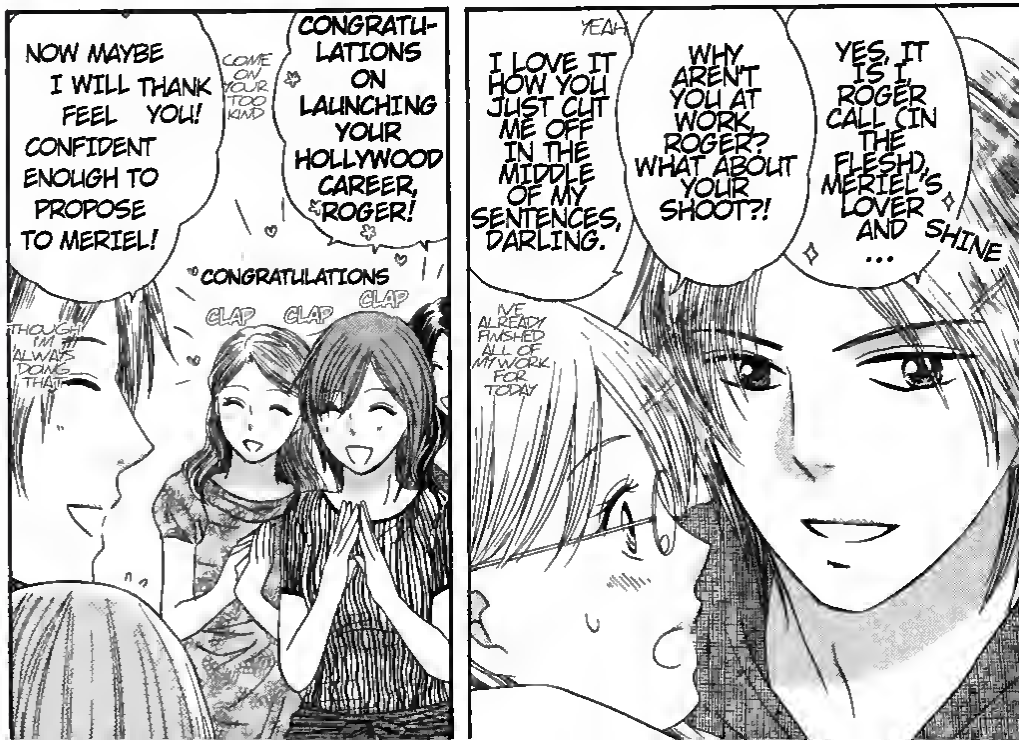

2 YEARS AGO ...
I INHERITED THIS PLACE FROM MY GRANDMOTHER AND FULFILLED MY DREAM OF TURNING IT INTO A BOARDING HOUSE.
TODAY...
A RESIDENT WILL MOVE OUT FOR THE FIRST TIME.

CHEERS!
HERE'S TO JUDITH ASCHAM AND HER FUTURE HAPPINESS!
OK!
YOU MUST VISIT US AT OUR NEW HOME!
I SO WANT TO SEE THE HOUSEHOLD OF A NEWLY MARRIED COMPANY PRESIDENT AND HIS SECRETARY.
YOU BET!
MR. BARNETT DOES SEEM LIKE A GREAT PERSON!
SO VERY MUCH
MR. ARK-WRIGHT IS A WONDER-FUL PERSON!!
OH NO, YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE MANACS TOO, EH?
STOP RIGHT THERE LADIES!
HOLD UP
I...!
YEAH, MY OWN BESPECTACLED AUTHOR CAN'T COMPARE TO HIM.
OH?
TO HEAR THAT FROM SOMEONE WITH A HOLLYWOOD ACTOR FOR A LOVER ...
TEE HEE
TEE HEE

DON'T YOU DARE FORGET MY OWN TROPHY PLAYBOY!
SHARON ...
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ME?
OH.
OF COURSE, MARCUS IS IN A WHOLE DIFFERENT LEAGUE.
HE COOKS, CLEANS THE HOUSE AND IS SO HANDSOME. YOU JUST CAN'T FIND MEN LIKE HIM ANYMORE.
IF YOU EVER GET TIRED OF SHARON, GIVE ME A CALL, MARCUS.
HEY, HEY, HEY!
WHOOOAAA!
STOP RIGHT THERE!!

THAT MAY ALL BE TRUE BUT MARCUS HAS JUST OPENED HIS OWN RESTAURANT AND HAS NO MONEY SAVED UP!!
SHARON ...
THAT'S RIGHT!
THAT WON'T BE A PROBLEM WITH MARCUS' TALENT.
HE'S EVEN BEEN FEATURED IN A MAGA-ZINE.
NOD NOD
THANK YOU, LADIES. YOU'RE SO KIND.
YAA!
KISS
SEE?! LOOK AT THAT SLY MANNER OF HIS!
SHARON ...
HOW ABOUT THAT?!


ROGER CALL?!
SQUISHY SQUISHY
MMM
WOW
YAAA!
GRABS
HANDS OFF MY MERIEL!
UGH!


NOW MAYBE I WILL THANK FEEL YOU! CONFIDENT ENOUGH TO PROPOSE TO MERIEL!
COME ON YOUR TOO KIND
CONGRATULATIONS ON LAUNCHING YOUR HOLLYWOOD CAREER, ROGER!
CONGRATULATIONS
CLAP CLAP CLAP
THOUGH I'M NOT ALWAYS DOING THAT
YEAH
I LOVE IT HOW YOU JUST CUT ME OFF IN THE MIDDLE OF MY SENTENCES, DARLING.
I'VE ALREADY FINISHED ALL OF MY WORK FOR TODAY
WHY AREN'T YOU AT WORK, ROGER? WHAT ABOUT YOUR SHOOT?!
YES, IT IS I, ROGER CALL IN THE FLESH, MERIEL'S LOVER AND SHINE ...

CONGRATULATIONS, JUDITH!
THANK YOU!
TO THINK THAT THE ROGER CALL IS CONGRATULATING ME!
YAY!
MERIEL'S DEAR FRIENDS ARE MY DEAR FRIENDS AS WELL!
YOU REALLY ARE GOOD LOOKING
YAA
SO, WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS? A GRADUATION PARTY?
THAT'S RIGHT. JUDITH GOT MARRIED SO SHE'S LEAVING THE HOUSE.
MARRIED?!
STOP FLIRTING WITH ROGER, LANCE.
HAVEN'T YOU AND I MET SOMEWHERE BEFORE...?
HE'S ALREADY TAKEN
STARE
MY HUSBAND.
STARE
?!

I REALLY WANTED TO ATTEND THIS PARTY ...
HE FAKED FEELING SICK AND SLIPPED AWAY TO COME HERE.
ACTUALLY ...
I HEARD YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO MAKE IT TODAY.
HEE HEE
MARCUS, WE NEED ANOTHER GLASS
HAS THE PARTY FOR YOUR CLIENTS ENDED ALREADY?
MR. PRESIDENT!
OH!
THE PLACE AND THE FRIENDS THAT JUDITH HAS CHERISHED.
I WANTED TO SEE WITH MY OWN EYES ...

...
I JUST NOTICED I'M THE ONLY ONE HERE WHO IS ALONE ...
SLINK SLINK
SNUGGLE SNUGGLE
I'M SO HAPPY ...
NOT THAT I MIND BUT -

LANCE ...

WHAT?
DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT TOMORROW IS THE DEADLINE FOR TURNING IN YOUR MANU-SCRIPT?
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT TODAY'S PARTY, CLARICE?
IT IS BUT ... I'D HAVE MADE IT WORK FOR SUCH AN IMPORTANT DAY!
IT'S ME ...
OH?
THIS PERSON LOOKS JUST LIKE TREVOR ...
A MIRACE?
I WANT TO KNOW ALL OF THEM.
THE FRIENDS YOU HAVE, THE THINGS YOU CHERISH ...
THE PLACE THAT YOU LIVE AT ...
TREVOR ...
I WANT TO BE PART OF YOUR LIFE, CLARICE!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANTED TO SAY!
THEIR LIVES- ARE MORE IMPORT-ANT.
NO, NOT REALLY
WHAA AT?!
AREN'T DEADLINES MORE IMPORTANT TO WRITERS THAN THEIR LIVES?!
BUT MRS ARK-WRIGHT SAID ...
MOTHER

WHY?
BECAUSE I LOVE YOU.
TEE HEE
I LOVE YOU TOO, TREVOR.
I'M HAPPY YOU CAME.
SHARON?
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?
NO, NOTHING.
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING TODAY, MARCUS!
DON'T MENTION IT.
I'M GLAD EVERYONE HAD FUN.
THAT'S BECAUSE
YOUR COOKING IS THE BEST IN THE WORLD, MARCUS ...
HAHA THANKS

MARCUS ...
I GET IT.
THE ONE WHO IS MOST ATTACHED TO THIS HOUSE AND THE PEOPLE LIVING IN IT... IS YOU, SHARON.
YES ...
I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING GRANDMA USED TO SAY.
HM?
HOLD
"THE MEMORIES ..."
"OF LIVING IN THIS HOUSE WITH ALL THOSE FAMILIES ..."
"HAVE, MORE THAN ANYTHING, MADE MY LIFE RICHER."
BUT ...
THE LONELINESS I FELT AFTER SAYING GOODBYE TO SOMEONE FOR THE FIRST TIME ...
MADE ME WISH WE COULD HAVE A LITTLE MORE TIME.
THE END

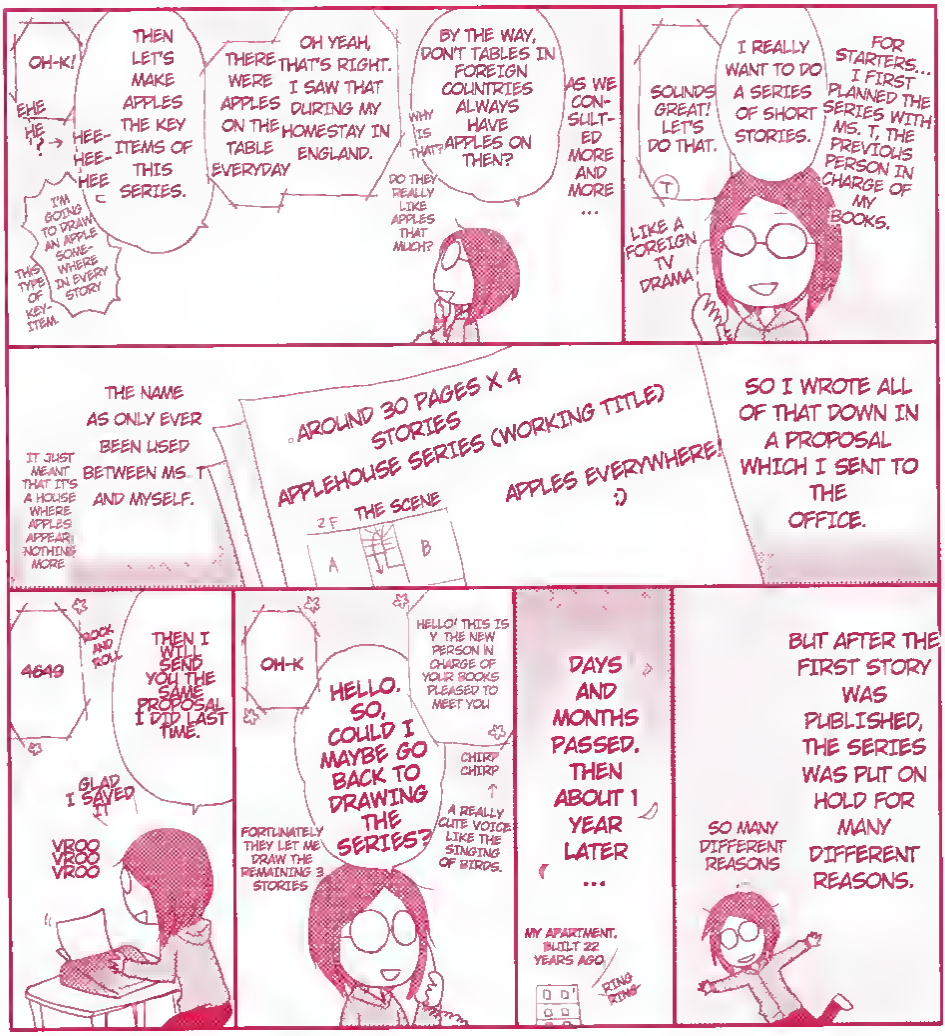
THANKS A BUNCH! SORRY FOR MAKING YOU TURN THE COVER OVER. I WANTED TO APOLOGIZE FOR THAT HERE.

APPLE HOUSE SERIES AFTERWORD

HELLO! IT'S ME, YOHNA, BRINGING YOU MY 12TH ROMANCE COMIC, "THE MORNING I MET A GODDESS"! WITH THIS TITLE I KIND OF DID SOMETHING NEW AND MADE IT INTO A SERIES OF 4 SHORT STORIES. DID YOU LIKE IT? I HAD LOADS OF FUN DRAWING IT! YAYAY!

OK THEN... WOULD YOU MIND IF I TALKED A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE "APPLEHOUSE" TITLE?

THE TOPIC: "WHAT THE HELL IS AN APPLEHOUSE?"


OH-K!
EHE HE!?
HEE-HEE-HEE
THEN LET'S MAKE APPLES THE KEY ITEMS OF THIS SERIES.
I'M GOING TO DRAW AN APPLE SOMEWHERE IN EVERY STORY
THIS TYPE OF KEY-ITEM
THERE WERE APPLES ON THE TABLE EVERYDAY
OH YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT. I SAW THAT DURING MY HOMESTAY IN ENGLAND.
BY THE WAY, DON'T TABLES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES ALWAYS HAVE APPLES ON THEM?
WHY IS THAT?
DO THEY REALLY LIKE APPLES THAT MUCH?
AS WE CONSULTED MORE AND MORE ...
SOUNDS GREAT! LET'S DO THAT.
I REALLY WANT TO DO A SERIES OF SHORT STORIES.
FOR STARTERS... I FIRST PLANNED THE SERIES WITH MS. T, THE PREVIOUS PERSON IN CHARGE OF MY BOOKS.
T
LIKE A FOREIGN TV DRAMA
THE NAME AS ONLY EVER BEEN USED BETWEEN MS. T AND MYSELF.
IT JUST MEANT THAT IT'S A HOUSE WHERE APPLES APPEAR. NOTHING MORE
AROUND 30 PAGES X 4 STORIES
APPLEHOUSE SERIES (WORKING TITLE)
APPLES EVERYWHERE! :)
THE SCENE
2F
A
B
SO I WROTE ALL OF THAT DOWN IN A PROPOSAL WHICH I SENT TO THE OFFICE.
4649
ROCK AND ROLL
THEN I WILL SEND YOU THE SAME PROPOSAL I DID LAST TIME.
GLAD I SAVED IT
VROO VROO VROO
OH-K
HELLO. SO, COULD I MAYBE GO BACK TO DRAWING THE SERIES?
HELLO! THIS IS Y. THE NEW PERSON IN CHARGE OF YOUR BOOKS. PLEASED TO MEET YOU
CHIRP CHIRP
A REALLY CUTE VOICE LIKE THE SINGING OF BIRDS.
FORTUNATELY THEY LET ME DRAW THE REMAINING 3 STORIES
DAYS AND MONTHS PASSED. THEN ABOUT 1 YEAR LATER ...
MY APARTMENT. BUILT 22 YEARS AGO
RING RING
BUT AFTER THE FIRST STORY WAS PUBLISHED, THE SERIES WAS PUT ON HOLD FOR MANY DIFFERENT REASONS.
SO MANY DIFFERENT REASONS

CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE.

PART 2

WHAT'S WITH THIS APPLE ICON?!

"APPLEHOUSE" HAS DOMINATED EVERY TITLE PAGE...!

PURE ROMANCE 30P

FINAL VERSION ...

THE FIRST DRAFT ...

APPLEHOUSE SERIES 2

APPLEHOUSE SERIES

THE PROPOSAL THAT DEFIED TIME

APPLE HOUSE SERIES

YOHAN

FRESH OFF THE PRESS.

SO I FINISHED THE STORY-BOARD AND THE FIRST DRAFT ...

SCRIBBLE SCRIBBLE SCRIBBLE

IT WAS AFTER ALL 1 YEAR AGO AND IT WASN'T ALL THAT IMPORTANT

AROUND THAT TIME I HAD COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE WHOLE APPLE THING.

I MUST ADD APPLES INTO THE STORIES NO MATTER WHAT ...

EVEN IF THEY WILL HAVE TO BE ADDED TO EXISTING PANELS!!

AFTER THAT ...

CONCLUSION

I REALLY DIDN'T GET IT BUT I THOUGHT THAT MS. Y MIGHT JUST HAVE BEEN A LITTLE DIM.

CHIRP CHIRP

EHE.

WHY MS. Y?

HAVE YOU READ THE STORY-BOARD

ONLY THE FIRST STORY HAS AN APPLE IN IT

NOBODY TOLD ME ABOUT THIS

WHAT THE HELL IS AN APPLE-HOUSE?

FIRST OF ALL ...

LIKE SOMETHING FROM A FAIRY TALE?

NOW THEN, TRY AND LOOK FOR THE APPLES I DESPERATELY TRIED TO ADD TO THE COMIC! BY THE WAY, DON'T BOTHER WITH THE 4TH STORY BECAUSE I COMPLETELY FORGOT ABOUT IT AND SO DIDN'T DRAW ANY APPLES IN IT.

I MAY HAVE EXAGGERATED WITH THE "NO MATTER WHAT" PART

— THE "APPLEHOUSE SERIES" WAS BORN AND PRESENTED TO THE PUBLIC.

THE FRUITS OF LOVE SPROUT BETWEEN US...

THE CATCHPHRASE FROM THE FIRST STORY.

AND SO, THANKS TO MS. Y'S ARBITRARY DECISION ...

NO ONE BESIDES THE AUTHOR HAS EVER DOUBTED THE APPLE-HOUSE.

IT WAS RECEIVED WITHOUT A SINGLE COMPLAINT ...

WHAT THE HELL?

THE APPLEHOUSE SERIES WAS REALLY FUN.

I WANT TO LIVE IN THE APPLEHOUSE TOO

WASN'T THE APPLEHOUSE SERIES A LITTLE TOO SHORT?

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF THE READERS ASK ME "WHAT IS 'APPLE-HOUSE' SUPPOSED TO MEAN?"...?

I WAS COMPLETELY STRESSED OUT BUT

AFTER THE BOOK WAS PUBLISHED

IT'S NOT EXPLAINED IN THE COMIC

END

ROMANCE COMICS

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